

## Meeting Notice

**A meeting of the Planning Unit for the WRIA 55 and 57 Local Watershed Planning program will be held at:**

**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Date:** December 5, 2001  
**Place:** Conference Room  
Spokane County Conservation District  
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

### Agenda

- 10:00 am**      **Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**  
Facilitator Lead
- 10:05 am**      **Discuss and Approve October Meeting Summary**  
Facilitator Lead
- 10:10**            **November Public Meetings Report**  
Overview of Meetings: Reanette Boese  
Meeting Questionnaire Results: Sarah Hubbard-Gray
- 10:40**            **Instream Flow Work Update**  
Stan Miller
- 11:10**            **Draft Data Compilation and Assessment Report**  
Discussion on Committee Comment Process: Bryony Hansen, Golder Associates
- 11:40**            **Other items of Public or Committee Concern**  
Facilitator Lead
- 11:55**            **Wrap Up of Session: Facilitator summarizes information presented**
- 12:00**            **Adjourn**

If you have any questions regarding this notice contact Stan Miller at (509) 477-7259 or via e-mail at [smiller@spokanecounty.org](mailto:smiller@spokanecounty.org)

## Meeting Summary

### Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan

December 5, 2001

#### Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

|                 |                |                    |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Terry Liberty   | Tom Hargreaves | Ty Wick            |
| Lloyd Brewer    | Ann Murphy     | Bryony Hansen      |
| Steve Skipworth | Gus Koedding   | Stan Miller        |
| Susan McGeorge  | Jim Wilson     | Reanette Boese     |
| Doug Allen      | Rachael Osborn | Erin Cunningham    |
| Roger Krieger   | Bruce Howard   | Sarah Hubbard-Gray |

**Guests that attended the meeting and were recorded on the sign in sheet were:** Jane Cunningham, Al Wetzell, and Larry Snyder.

**Introductions:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah provided an overview of the agenda and asked if there were comments on the October 17, 2001 Meeting Summary. Jim Wilson, Ann Murphy, and Dave Jones indicated that they were at the meeting, but not listed as having signed in. There were no other comments on the meeting summary.

**November Public Meetings Report:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray provided an overview of the November 14 and 15, 2001 public meetings. 35 people attended the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at West Valley High School and 16 people filled out the meeting questionnaire. 51 people attended the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Riverside High School and 19 people filled out the meeting questionnaire. Summaries of the meeting questionnaire comments for each meeting were passed out and reviewed. The committee members that attended the public meetings provided their perspectives and the following suggestions were provided for future public meetings: 1) presentations should be shorter and cover more specific topics, and use less words and more pictures and simple graphics, 2) develop a handout that covers typical questions and answers, 3) make sure presenters use microphones, 4) include a meeting in a central City of Spokane location, 5) develop a standard Powerpoint presentation on the Watershed Planning Act that can be used as an introduction (Doug Allen/Ecology said he would prepare), 6) provide time before each meeting to share background information with new participants, and 7) develop more displays and handouts for information stations on specific topics.

**Instream Flow Work Update:** Stan Miller explained that the Instream Flow Work Group met on November 9, 2001. Susan McGeorge, Doug Allen, Neil White and Stan Miller attended the meeting. Stan passed out a memo that summarized the meeting. Stan explained that there are several decisions that need to be made, including: 1) What kind of recommendation does the Planning Unit want?, and 2) Where should the new compliance points be? There are four current regulated gauges used to determine when junior water rights are cut off. Other compliance points

may better represent regionalized impacts (e.g., Pend Oreille County wants a gage that better represents their area).

In addition, the technical methods for conducting the aquatic biota flow studies need to be finalized and determinations made on where to apply the methods. John Whalen, a local fisheries expert at the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department, will provide input on the fish spawning habitat to support this effort.

The Planning Unit discussed the following points and questions:

- Doug Allen/Ecology explained that Ecology is looking at how to effectively develop instream flow recommendations for closed and non-closed basins. He indicated that for closed basins, like the Little Spokane River, they may not be looking for specific instream flow numbers. Whereas, non-closed basins, like the Middle Spokane River, may need to look at developing specific flow numbers and target numbers. Doug also explained that Ecology is developing a Programmatic EIS on Instream Flows, which is needed to adopt a new rule. The Planning Unit will need to do an EIS supplement for instream flow recommendations for each specific watershed, in addition to complying with the Growth Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. Doug passed out a copy of the RCW statutes relating to instream flows.
- It was expressed that it would be nice to have more information on where to add/move flow gauges, since the current gauges don't indicate what is happening on the tributary streams. Stan Miller indicated that they are looking at multiple points that may need additional gauging stations.

The next Instream Flow Work Group will meet on December 12, 2001 at 1:30 at Whitworth Water District. Tom Hargreaves, Gus Koedding, Bruce Howard, and Lloyd Brewer agreed to join the Work Group.

**Water Rights and Claims Work Group Update:** Reanette Boese explained that the Water Rights and Claims Work Group met on December 5, 2001 prior to the Planning Unit meeting. They reviewed the two separate elements of rights and claims, which include rights and duty. The Work Group discussed how to conduct the initial assessment of the Ecology rights and claims to develop appropriate assumptions on the current water allocations. They are in the process of evaluating and deciding what assumption should be used regarding the validity of rights and claims and will ask John Covert/Ecology if there is a typical percent of rights and claims that are generally considered valid. It was also suggested that they look at the Deadman Creek adjudication for information.

The Work Group is also developing assumptions on duty, and will look at WSU irrigation information for specific crops, also noting Deer Park's irrigation volumes used for their wastewater land application facility.

The Planning Unit members had the following suggestions: 1) consider using the rights and claims as the upper end water allocation value and adding lower range values based on different

assumptions, 2) check the claims to see if some are invalid, and 3) look at the amount of water actually being used, in addition to the rights and claims values.

**Draft Data Compilation and Assessment Report:** Bryony Hanson described the process for accessing and commenting on the draft report. It was decided that all Planning Unit comments need to be submitted by February 1, 2002. To assist folks in their review, Spokane County offered to provide the draft report on CDs and in printed format, in addition to the available web site access. The County will e-mail notifications to the Planning Unit members when the CDs and printed copies are available, along with where/how to get them. It was requested that comments be e-mailed if possible. Bryony will provide the preferred comment format to the Planning Unit via e-mail. Bryony also explained that the Future Water Use Demand report being developed by Varela and Associates will be done by the end of December and available for review. Comments on this report should also be provided by February 1, 2002.

**Other Items Discussed:** Tom Hargreaves explained that there will be a meeting on the Little Spokane River Technical Evaluation hosted by the Spokane Conservation District on December 13, 2001 at 4:00 pm at Riverside High School. The meeting will cover student reports on riparian assessments, nitrogen sampling, discharge report, etc.

Rachael Osborn explained that the protests on the Idaho power plants were proceeding. Trial type hearings with opportunities for public input will be held the weeks of February 11, 2001 (Cogentrix) and March 11, 2002 (Newport Northwest).

Doug Allen explained that the Spokane Regional Chamber and CDA Chamber are planning a workshop and possible project on long-term aquifer management. They may be requesting money to be allocated by the state legislatures. He expressed concern that this new effort may duplicate the existing WRIA 55 and 57 Planning Unit work. It was suggested that the state senators be informed of the concern. Stan Miller offered to contact them and provide an update at the next Planning Unit meeting.

Stan Miller also explained that the Idaho Water Resource Institute has expressed interest in using the MIKE model on the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in Idaho. This represents a possibility for cooperation and a joint effort.

The next Planning Unit meeting was set for January 16, 2002 at 10:00 am.