

## 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:** Wednesday, November 20, 2002  
**Place:** Conference Room  
Spokane County Conservation District  
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

## Agenda

- 10:00 am**      **Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**  
**Discuss and Approve October 23, 2002 Meeting Summary**  
Facilitator Lead
- 10:10**        **Report on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work**  
Stan Miller
- 10:30**        **Report on Modeling**  
Sara Marxen and Bob Anderson – Golder Associates
- 11:35**        **Avista Relicensing Workshop**  
**November 19th Watershed Planning Workshop**  
Doug Allen
- 11:45**        **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  
November 20, 2002

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

Doug Allen	Ty Wick	Rachael Paschal Osborn
Lloyd Brewer	Steve Skipworth	Bruce Howard
Harry McLean	Gus Koedding	Dave Jones
Jane Cunningham	Ann Murphy	Stan Miller
Ken Kuhn	Susan McGeorge	Reanette Boese
Jim Wilson		

**Consultants that attended the meeting were:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray of Hubbard Gray Consulting, Bryony Hansen of Golder Associates, Bob Anderson of Golder Associates, and Sara Marxen of Golder Associates.

**Guests that attended the meeting were:** Bob Beaumier of the City of Spokane.

**Introductions:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah asked if there were comments on the October 23, 2002 Meeting Summary. Bryony Hansen requested the following changes/clarifications to the meeting summary and the Planning Unit members concurred with the clarifications:

1. On page 2, second bullet after "Planning Unit discussion followed and included" - change the second bullet to read: "The stream reaches are sufficiently variable that one transect per site is not representative of the entire reach. However, the one transect per site that was selected during the Sept 23- 25 fieldwork, was chosen by Golder to be as representative as possible of the reach considering the access limitations."
2. On page 2, in the paragraph following the set of three bullets, delete the first sentence and replace it with the following three sentences: "Bryony Hansen indicated that at this stage, Golder recommends using option 2 (clustering measurements around low flow to assess habitat at low flow). However this is a preliminary recommendation since Golder is reviewing the data as it is collected and will be recommending modifications to the field data collection based on preliminary interpretation of the data. Any changes will be submitted to WDFW for approval before being made."

Lloyd Brewer requested that some time at the end of the meeting be saved for discussion of the City of Spokane's position regarding plan recommendation decision making. There were no other comments regarding the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting summary.

**Report on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work:** Stan Miller explained the status of the Little Spokane River Instream Flow work. His presentation included:

- Overview of the budget and Ecology's approval of the budget.
- Status of an instream flow work group meeting – not able to arrange yet because Hal Beecher has not been available. Dave Fernet of Golder is currently reviewing the data collected and will discuss the results with Hal Beecher. Then a work group meeting, with conference call links, will be arranged. An email notice to all of the Planning Unit members will be sent out before the work group meeting so anyone interested can attend. Stan explained that this delay is acceptable since the Little Spokane River flows have stabilized.

**Report on Modeling:** Bob Anderson and Sara Marxen of Golder Associates gave a presentation on the work that has been done to date on the modeling. Bob Anderson explained that Golder needs to understand how the Planning Unit wants to use the model and what questions they will want the model to try and answer. Bob explained that the model is very sophisticated and large, which means that running the model to generate answers to questions takes time. Sara Marxen then gave an overview of the goals of the modeling, the simulation of the hydrologic cycle, the modeling process and mechanics, and the model data needed and used. The presentation also included information on:

- Model set-up, which included:
  - Digital elevation data
  - Meteorological data
  - Land cover
  - Rivers
  - Saturated zone
  - Boundary conditions
- Model calibration, which was performed using actual data
- Model results (a video of a model run was shown)
- Challenges, including integration of water balance components
- Model outputs, which can be numerous and need to be focused on what is needed to make decisions
- Next steps, which include finalization of the model report and updates and enhancements tailored to future use of the model

The Planning Unit members asked a variety of questions and provided a variety of comments, including:

- Clarification on how the model works
- Concern about the 210 cfs value for flow through the Hillyard Trough were raised and Golder indicated that they would re-evaluate
- Possible outputs/model runs were discussed, including:
  - Runs using different flows from Idaho to integrate with the proposed interstate aquifer study
  - Runs to show how increased growth/development affects water demands
  - Runs relating aquifer storage and recovery options
  - Runs with more of the withdrawal/groundwater pumping being done further from river
  - Runs showing affect of maximizing all certified water rights limits
- Need to identify data needs in the Little Spokane River to improve model sensitivity
- Options of looking at stormwater discharge and wastewater treatment plant influences
- Need to better define gaining and losing reaches of river
- Possibility of simulating natural conditions without pumping, but with Post Falls dam intact

- Doug Allen of Ecology explained that the model outputs may help with the large water rights issues, but not the smaller ones, and that instream flow may be the point that drives many of Ecology's future water right decisions

**November 19th Watershed Planning Workshop:** Doug Allen explained that the November 19<sup>th</sup> Watershed Planning Workshop in Tacoma was well attended by legislators. Five displays, including the WRIA 55/57 display which Doug brought for the Planning Unit to see, and an Ecology eastern region display were posted. Steve Skipworth also attended the workshop. Discussion at the workshop included:

- Support for implementation which seemed to indicate support for future funding even though it is unclear where the funding may come from
- The need for Phase IV local fund contributions
- Desire to see results, value, and benefits from the planning efforts through implementation
- Desire to see the planning units stay organized and involved during implementation
- Possible legislative changes to propose in the next session associated with streamlining the adjudication and water rights process

**Spokane River Instream Flow Workshop:** Doug Allen explained that the workshop was attended by approximately 50 people and that Golder Associates, plus others, gave presentations. It was also explained that two Avista relicensing workshops were recently held.

**Other items of Public or Committee Concern:** Relating to the continued discussion of plan recommendation decision making, Lloyd Brewer explained that the City of Spokane's position is that they have an agreement with the initiating governments through the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), not with the Planning Unit members. He indicated that the City wants to stay involved with the process, but that they will not recognize watershed plan elements that are not agreed to by consensus by the initiating agencies and do not have associated commitment in writing by the initiating agencies. Bob Beaumier, City of Spokane attorney, indicated that the City needs to work within the defined process, that the City is here in good faith, and that Lloyd does not have the authority to alter the agreement. Mr. Beaumier also indicated that City staff will not take a MOA amendment to the City Council for approval because it is not recommended by staff. However, the Planning Unit could independently approach the Mayor or City Council with the request. Planning Unit discussion followed.

Stan Miller recommended that an initiating agency meeting, open to all Planning Unit members, be held to discuss the issue further and identify support for modifying the MOA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday December 18, 2002 at 10:00 am at the Spokane County Conservation District.