

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
October 18, 2006

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Mary Wren-Wilson, <i>City of Liberty Lake</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assn</i>
Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Tim Vore, <i>Avista</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Rob Lindsay, and Robbin Paeper, Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus, Department of Ecology</i>	
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Spokane County Planning Commission</i>	
Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>		

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Reanette called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for September 20, 2006 was reviewed and accepted.

Update on the West Branch LSR lakes committee: The September 26 kick off meeting in Newport had about 40 attendees and the September 28 meeting at Riverside H.S. had about 25 attendees. About 25 people signed up to join the committee. The first meeting of the committee will be October 24, 2006 at Riverside High School from 6:30 to 8:30.

Web pages for the West Branch LSR Committee are now accessible from the WRIA 55/57 website. The banner pictures include a Diamond Lake sunset picture taken by Tom Wimpy and a Sacheen Lake outlet picture taken by Rob Lindsay. There are some downloadable documents and a picture of the organizing group.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow: Rob Lindsay reported that the field work is complete. Our consultant (EES) is working on the report. Avista was a great help with coordinating river flows and in providing some funding for collecting extra data on one WRIA 54 cross section.

Conservation: Reanette provided an update of recent meetings held at Ecology regarding formation of a regional communication network addressing water conservation proposals, measures, etc. Any Planning Unit members who wish will be added to a Water Conservation listserv being set up by the SAJB in conjunction with the Department of Ecology. The listserv will be a forum for sharing ideas about water conservation and working to have a coordinated message. There will also be meetings to discuss conservation topics. Additionally, The SAJB has recently signed a grant agreement (approximately \$250,000) with the Department of Ecology for water conservation education. The SAJB committee will meet this afternoon to work on the project. The WRIA 55/57 website should contain a link to the SAJB water conservation website when it is complete.

Phase IV MOA: All 13 of the listed parties have signed the MOA. Reanette handed out the packet with all of the signatures. She will mail the packet to the City of Spokane and other signatories who were not at this meeting.

Phase IV Consultant selection: The selection committee of Susan McGeorge, Lloyd Brewer, Rick Noll, Rob Lindsay, and Reanette Boese interviewed three teams yesterday, October 17. The teams were GeoEngineers/TetraTech, HDR/Golder, and Sound Resolutions/Cascadia. Spokane County will notify

the top choice soon, and will begin negotiations soon thereafter. If a contract cannot be negotiated with the top choice, the second choice will be contacted. It may take over a month to get a contract signed.

Phase IV Grant Agreement: Spokane County is still preparing the Phase IV grant agreement. As previously discussed, the County will not execute the Phase IV grant agreement until the contract with the facilitator is signed because the one-year clock starts ticking when Ecology signs the grant agreement. The Phase IV grant provides \$125,000 for the first year to create the Detailed Implementation Plan. A 10% match must be provided by this group.

Reanette noted that the facilitation methods proposed by some of the consultant teams for Phase IV included either longer or more frequent meetings than we've been having lately. Key decisions will need to be made in the first few months of the DIP process. As such, Reanette reminded participants to begin looking at the Plan and revisit their entries in the implementation matrix.

Reanette also noted that we will need to track hours for the Phase IV match. Today's sign-in-sheet is an Ecology form for tracking hours at meetings, particularly for people who did not list an hourly rate in the MOA. Agencies that have provided an hourly rate will be asked to turn in computer printouts of their time coded for this project. Spokane County will need to ask Cathy Hubbard about the hourly rate for people who are salaried and do not track coded time. People who volunteer time outside of the meetings will need to fill out an Ecology "timesheet" (distributed at the meeting) in order for that time to be included in the match. Hours that may be part of another Ecology grant (i.e. West Branch Little Spokane Committee) cannot be used for match on this grant. Rob noted that Spokane County will also need to track attendance at future meetings for the purpose of officially recognizing Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) members, in accordance with the membership procedures agreed upon in the Phase IV MOA.

Water System Plan Checklist: Reanette distributed a copy of the Draft Checklist. No substantial comments were made by the Planning Unit. A typographical error in the Draft 3 Water System Plan checklist will be fixed. This will be version 1 of the checklist, which may need changes as we refine the Plan. A footer will be put on the document indicating version number and date. Ty and Susan suggested Department of Health distribute the checklists to the water purveyors during the pre-planning meeting. Reanette will contact Megan Nicodemus (DOH) about that and how to get the checklist to water purveyors who are currently beyond the pre-planning meeting.

The question arose as to which water systems need to prepare plans. Ty responded that water systems with between 100 and 1000 connections that are growing and water systems over 1000 connections must complete water system plans. Water systems between 100 and 1000 connections that are not growing must complete Management Plans. We do not need to check the Management Plans for consistency with our Watershed Plan.

Future Agenda Items – Phase IV direction: The first step in creating a Detailed Implementation plan will be deciding which recommendations (1) can be done easily, (2) are very important for the watershed, and (3) are already started or need no more work. Susan suggested we start working on this process before the new consultant starts. Reanette will email the matrix sorted by the average of the priorities we gave the issues and recommendations in the implementation matrix. We will begin discussion on the matrix at the next meeting.

Rob Lindsay inquired about the future status of the Steering Committee, and whether the current Steering Committee was providing value. It was decided we should wait until the new facilitator begins to determine the future of the Steering Committee. The main role of the Steering Committee thus far has been to set the agendas for the meetings. The facilitator may set the agendas at the conclusion of

meetings in the future. The Planning Unit decided to not hold a Steering Committee meeting in November.

Public Comment and other issues: Andy Dunau sent out an email about a workshop to discuss the results of the survey we filled out earlier this year. The tentative date is December 6. The workshop is mainly for lead agency/coordinators but may be helpful for some other members of the Planning Unit/WIT. All are welcome to attend.

The Spokane River Clean Water Workshop on Saturday November 4 will be from 9 to 4 at the Gonzaga Law School. It is sponsored by the Center for Justice; the Columbia Institute for Water Policy, I Love the Spokane River, and the Sierra Club. They are encouraging us to have a table with Watershed Planning information.

Keith Holliday has accepted a position in the toxic cleanup part of the Eastern Region of the Department of Ecology. Rob thanked Keith for all of his hard work in supporting the Planning Unit and we let him know we will all miss him.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Spokane County Conservation District..