

WRIA 55/57: Little Spokane River and Middle Spokane River Watersheds  
WRIA 56: Hangman/Latah Creek

## ***Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting***

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room  
Spokane, WA

### **Meeting Summary**

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

Reanette Boese, *Spokane County*  
Claudia Crawford, *Whitworth Water*  
Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water & Power*  
Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*  
Doug Greenland, *City of Spokane*  
Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Assoc*  
Howard Rowley, *Horseshoe Lake*  
Ty Wick, *SAJB*  
Gary Ostheller, *Fairfield Grange*  
Steve Bortfeld, *Hangman Hills Water District*

Mike Hermanson, *Spokane County*  
Todd Henry, *Vera Water & Power*  
Bill Rickard, *City of Spokane Water Dept*  
Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*  
Walt Edelen, *Spokane Co Conservation District*  
Rick Noll, *Spokane Co Conservation District*  
Lindsay Chutas, *Spokane Co Conservation Dist*  
Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*  
Peter Grunte, *Hangman Watershed Resident*

**Guests Present:**

Dale Gill, *Little Spokane River Property Owner*  
Dan & Gloria Clark, *Property Owners*

**Consultants Present:**

Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

### **Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**Introductions and Meeting Summary:** Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for March 3, 2010 was reviewed and approved with the following changes: **West Branch LSR:** It was clarified that the Citizen's Advisory meeting was put on by WDFW and the topic was public access and uses for the Rustler's Gulch property. **Conservation:** Reanette will check with Lloyd Brewer about possible clarifications to the City's report on conservation.

#### **Updates**

**Legislative Issues:** Susan Gulick reported that continuation of Watershed Planning funding is included in both the House and Senate budgets. The special session will end April 13, 2010 and the final budget will be approved by then (unless another special session is required). We should know the final budget status by the next WIT meeting.

**West Branch LSR:** Greg Sweeney reported the next meeting will be April 26, 2010, at the Riverside Fire Station, 6 pm. The SCCD is working with Ecology to get the Little Spokane TMDL updated.

The SCCD has received a grant to work with the Eloika Lake Association in addressing aquatic weeds in the lake (primarily milfoil).

*If you have questions or comments about the agenda, please contact Susan Gulick of Sound Resolutions at (206) 548-0469 or by e-mail at [Susan@Soundresolutions.com](mailto:Susan@Soundresolutions.com).*

Spokane County has signed the contract with PBS&J to use the WRIA grant funds to assess the potential of the return of wetlands and an outlet flow control device to south Eloika Lake.

**Conservation:** Reanette Boese provided course summary memos from the Irrigation Workshops held in March.

The City of Spokane will soon launch an outdoor rebate program for smart irrigation controllers. The city will also have a “Wise Water Use Campaign” and a “Water Smart Workshop” in May.

Lindsay Chutas reported that the majority of the Xeriscaping and water conservation website content is ready.

Rob Lindsay reported that the County Indoor Conservation Rebate Program is averaging about 140 applications per month and that the City’s Program is a little higher. The county is going to expand the program to more areas and multifamily facilities.

**APC Meetings:** Reanette reported they had an update on the Post Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City of Spokane Critical Materials at the last meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled for June to be held in Washington.

### **Drought Preparation Ideas**

Snowpack in eastern Washington is about fifty percent of normal and the region is predicted to face a moderate drought this summer. However, it will take multiple, consecutive years of drought before the aquifer is affected. In terms of the streams, sometimes the timing of the snow melt is more important than the amount of the runoff. Rob would like to have a consistent message from the purveyors, county, city, etc. on drought planning.

The Governor has allocated money for drought management. Rusty will find out more information on this, as well as more details on what happens if the Governor declares a drought.

Reanette will work with the RWCC to coordinate with water purveyors, city, county and state with a conservation flyer, perhaps with the message “It’s the River”.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The next WRIA 55/57 WIT meeting will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 at the SCCD.

## **Part II: Joint WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 Issues, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

### **Proposal for Joint WRIA Management**

Rob presented a proposal for the ongoing facilitation of WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 meetings. WRIA 54 will not be included at this time because they are not meeting. They will reconvene after the state budget is finalized. It may make sense for them to join the regional effort after they have completed their DIP.

Under the proposal, WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 would each provide their Watershed Council Support Grants (less some funding for grant administration) to the SCCD, who would use the funds to pay for staff to facilitate meetings. This would include managing the mailing lists, preparing and distributing agendas and meeting materials, facilitating the meetings and preparing meeting summaries. Other WIT members would be expected to step forward for tasks of the WIT. Such tasks may include drafting letters, coordinating sub-groups such as the legislative committee, etc. The SCCD would take the lead on maintaining the implementation tracking matrices.

Spokane County and the SCCD would remain as lead agencies for the respective WRIsAs. All grant monies would continue to flow through the lead agencies.

Additional meetings of sub-groups (based on WRIA geography or other issues) will be held as needed.

There are still issues about long-term funding of the groups that need to be addressed.

The WIT members agreed that this proposal was a good one and that the SCCD and the County should move forward with it.

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