

Meeting Summary
WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane - Middle Spokane River Watersheds
May 5, 2010

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>	Linda Kiefer, <i>Avista</i>
Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Todd McLaughlin, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	

Guests Present:

Diane Wear, *Pend Oreille County Commissioner*

Consultants Present:

Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for April 7, 2010 was reviewed and changes were as follows: **Lindsay Chutas** is the correct spelling.

Under **Updates for West Branch LSR**, should read: Spokane County has signed the contract with PBS&J to use the WRIA grant funds to assess the potential of the return of wetlands to south Eloika Lake and an outlet flow control device.

Updates:

West Branch LSR: Greg Sweeney reported they held their meeting April 26, 2010. They heard updates from WDFW regarding the Rustler's Gulch property and from Susan Harris on the Pend Oreille Tourism Alliance. The group unanimously decided to continue to meet quarterly.

Conservation: Rob Lindsay reported that the county has contacted Pend Oreille County to expand their rebate program into the Pend Oreille County portion of WRIA 55. Lloyd Brewer reported that the City of Spokane has a sprinkler system rebate in place. The rebates are a maximum of \$350 and the amount is based on size and complexity of the sprinkler system; water detection devices may qualify for a small rebate. The City's watershed stewardship website has more information. The City has a new contract for a "Slow the flow" media campaign this summer. Lloyd also reported that work continues on sealing the bottom of the Cannon Hill Pond so it doesn't need as much drinking water to keep it full.

APC Meetings: No Update.

Instream Flow: Rusty Post reported that the Department of Ecology will present their instream flow recommendations for the Spokane River on May 25, 2010 at the Spokane County Conservation District.

Planning Unit Budget:

The WIT discussed how to spend funds that were restored to the current budget, as well as how to allocate next year's budget. The budget years run from July 1 - June 30.

\$10,000 was restored to the current year's budget, which must be spent by June 30. Spokane recommended that \$5,000 be restored to the LSR gauging and Xeriscaping Website projects. They also recommended that \$5,000 be added for additional survey work, additional monitoring of wells, and additional field work for the wetlands project at the McKenzie conservation area near Newman Lake. The WIT agreed with the County's recommendation.

\$62,500 is available for next year's budget. The first 3 years of Phase IV the WIT received \$125,000 but in years 4 and 5 the amount goes down by 50%.

The WIT reviewed various options for projects next year, and selected four for which they'd like to have a summary description and budget (similar to the level of detail required in the grant with Ecology):

1. Design of a wetland restoration project at the McKenzie conservation area near Newman Lake
2. Refinements to the Water Demand Forecast
3. Additional hydro-geology work on the Little Spokane River
4. Water audits and/or assistance to school districts.

Spokane County will provide descriptions for the first 3 projects and Walt will provide a description/budget for the school district project. Descriptions are due to Susan or Reanette by May 19.

Annual Report: The draft 2009 Annual Report was discussed and some changes and or additions were recommended. Please send your comments to Susan Gulick or Reanette Boese.

The WIT also discussed how to address the ongoing issue of how to manage development and water in the Little Spokane watershed in areas where there is a proliferation of exempt wells in areas with concerns about the sustainability of water supplies. Rob agreed to write a simple strategy of what the WIT has done in the past and can do in the future to address this. The WIT agreed it was not useful to continue to talk about this in WIT meetings without a clear strategy of what to do.

Other Issues: Ty Wick reported that a new property list is being established for Spokane County "Conservation Futures".

Meetings: Rob Lindsay reported there would be an Idaho Coordinated Aquifer Management Planning (CAMP) Meeting on May 7, 2010. The Idaho Attorney General will be present.

There will be a Little Spokane TMDL meeting on May 26, 2010 at the Riverside Fire Station.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

June 2, 2010

9:00am – 12:00pm

Chattaroy Fire Station