

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA

Meeting Summary

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</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>
Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Lindsay Chutas, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake, WB-LSR</i>	Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>
Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Valley Resident</i>
Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>	Bill Abrahamse, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>

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

Introductions: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and committee members introduced themselves.

Project Updates

Conservation: Spokane County is still working on getting rebates up and going for indoor water conservation appliances in Spokane, Water District #3, and the Spokane County PUD. New Energy Star clothes washers and Water Sense toilets will be eligible for the rebates. Lloyd added that the city is wrapping up their outdoor conservation rebates for sprinkler controls and rain sensors. There will be a transition in the city and the Water Department will be taking over conservation.

APC meetings: An APC meeting was held September 14th. Lloyd presented about wellhead protection.

Eloika Lake: Greg reported that the ELA Lake Restoration Committee is preparing to follow up on the June PBS&J meeting with owners of private properties near the lake outlet channel. They will meet with Rick to discuss submission of a small grant application to acquire outlet area site elevations as a first step in investigating the potential for natural bio-controls to help maintain a higher summer pool lake level. The 4th annual Poker Paddle highlighting lake rehabilitation efforts on September 18th was a success, as was the July milfoil treatment, the first in a 5 year program 75% funded by Ecology and managed through SCCD.

West Branch-LSR: Results of the Sacheen Lake community sewer election unknown until Nov.1. Next West Branch Committee is October 25, looking for presentations. Please let Greg know. The DFW – “Rustlers Gulch” Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) met with DFW and POC staff for the third time last week. Howard Rowley thanked Greg and the rest of the committee for their efforts in recruiting a graduate student to assist in developing a management plan for this remarkable 2,700 acre wetland-wildlife area now in public hands. Howard also

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mentioned that there is another 8 acre piece of property near Rustlers Gulch that has an eagles nest and he would like to see conserved. He suggested a letter of encouragement from the WIT.

Conservation Futures: The WIT decided to send a letter of support for 3 properties to put into conservation futures. Greg seconded the nomination that the WIT write a letter. Reanette also encouraged individuals to make comments about individual properties for conservation future nomination.

Comments:

Walt brought up the CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative) as a potential funding source for habitat and water conservation issues in the LSR. He suggested contacting Gary Mitchell from NRCS to come and talk to the WIT at the next meeting.

Rusty discussed that WRIA 54 group will not be seeking a water master in light of current budget issues. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of a water master in WRIA 55/57.

Part II: Joint WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 Issues, 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order. Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary for Joint WRIA meeting on September 1, 2010 was approved with no changes.

Ecology Report to Legislature: Rusty reported that Ecology was tasked with providing a report to the legislature to house bill 6267 detailing the funding of water management programs. The report talks about the history of water laws and how water is managed, statues, and funding mechanisms. It has a lot of context for those that are unfamiliar with the details of ecology's roll in water management. Rusty also requested comments to the report via the Watersmart Washington Website.

Hangman Creek Hydrologic Study Update: Jim Mathieu and Laura Strauss from Northwest Land and Water gave a presentation about the findings of the Hangman Creek Hydrologic Study. The goals of the study were to provide information about the groundwater in the Hangman Creek Watershed in order to make informed decisions about groundwater management. The recommendations from the study are: promote deep seals in new wells in order to segregate targeted aquifers from smaller shallow aquifers; integrate land and water development; promote conservation incentives in the Freeman/Highway 27 area due to anticipate growth; refine conceptual hydrogeologic model to better define the lateral effect of the deep sub-regional aquifer in the Freeman/Highway 27 area; refine the conceptual hydrogeologic model to define the extent of the production aquifer in the Spangle/Highway 195 area; investigate the aquifer storage recovery, technical feasibility, and potential for water resource mitigation in the Spangle/Highway 195 area.

Part III: WRIA 56 Issues, 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AWEP Proposal Report: Walt reported the AWEP projects have the contracts finished for this year and will be applying for more funding for other projects in the next funding cycle.

Leak Detection Program: Walt met with purveyors and a leak detection agency and has decided to have the small town leak detection program hire a professional leak detection agency to go to small towns and detect the leaks in the municipal water systems. Hiring a professional will be a more efficient and effective use of the funding to find leaks.

Irrigation Efficiency program: Lindsay met with the Freeman school representatives and Ewing to explore the possibility of an irrigation efficiency pilot project at the Freeman School. The school suggested that the best location for a project would be the high school football field. The field has a very old, inefficient irrigation system. Dan Watt from Ewing suggested an irrigation audit on the field in Spring 2011, as well as retrofitting the irrigation system for the field to make it more efficient and with more effective coverage. He also offered to host an irrigation efficiency class to people in the watershed in conjunction with the pilot program.

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Beaver Solution project: The Lands Council beaver reintroduction project has been postponed. The project coordinators have decided to instead do riparian planting in the proposed area of reintroduction, in order to provide enough plant material to make it a feasible reintroduction site.

Language of WIT Activities for Hangman TMDL: Elaine Snouwaert asked the WIT to approve the language she was including in the Hangman TMDL about the WIT activities. The language was approved.

Announcements:

Lindsay announced the next meeting will be November 3, 2010 at the SCCD.