

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

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

**Wednesday September 7, 2011
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Spokane Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA**

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>	Dale Gill, <i>LSR Resident</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Valley Resident</i>	Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCCD</i>
Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>

Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay Chutas and the committee members introduced themselves.

Spokane County Conservation

- The Spokane County water conservation rebate program continues, with emphasis on multi-family residences and schools. The program has slowed through the summer, but the County is optimistic that the program will grow this fall.

West Branch Update

- Howard Rowley and Greg Sweeney informed the group of the upcoming quarterly West Branch meeting, October 24th at the Riverside Fire Station, 6-8 pm. A series of meetings with the Pend Oreille County Aquatic Weed Cooperative have been held over the summer, which stressed the arrival of flowering rush to the regions lakes, as well as zebra mussels. The Little Spokane Wildlife Area has new signs installed near trailheads. The 5th annual Eloika Lake Poker Paddle is scheduled for September 17 at 9 am.

Little Spokane Water Conservation

Reanette Boese gave an update on the Little Spokane Water Conservation Program.

Rebates: 407 rebates have been issued for toilets and washing machines, for a total of \$40,325 in rebates to date. The advertising efforts in Deer Park as well as mailing distribution in bills from the various water districts have proven successful with an increased number of rebates.

Education: Dixie Chichester from Pend Oreille WSU Extension has held a variety of classes on conservation topics: native grasses, drip irrigation, etc.

Signs: Reanette has proposed using the additional money from the program to install permanent educational signs around the watershed. She asked the members of the WIT for input and will work with those members to develop the content and location for the signs.

Implementation Project Proposals

Rob Lindsay and Mike Hermanson discussed changes to the County's Operational Project proposal for Hydrogeology of the little Spokane River Basin. They have lowered the cost of the proposal and trimmed the scope of work to make the proposal better fit with Ecology's priorities.

Phase IV Priority Project Ranking

The County has revised the projects they brought to the last meeting for consideration and priority ranking. The changes to the Implementation project mentioned above affected the base grant budget and needed to be revised. The WIT voted and accepted the proposals in the following priority order, given the Hydrogeology implementation project above, receives funding:

- Contract Management/Administration
- Meeting Facilitation (contract with SCD)
- Development of Water Availability and Sustainability Investigation Standards
- Little Spokane Groundwater Elevation and stream Flow Monitoring
- Spokane County Water Demand Model-Consumptive Use and Return Flows
- Bi-State Meeting Support for Spokane River Forum

Part II: Joint WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 Issues 11:10 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with WRIA 56 Watershed Management Plan Update section.

Spokane County Water Resource Education Center

Rob Lindsay discussed the Water Resource Education Center, built in conjunction with the newly constructed Spokane County Water Reclamation Facility on Freya St. The County is now working with the consultant, Renate, to develop content for the Education Facility. The objectives are to appeal to a large audience, focusing on 4th and 5th graders. A series of workshops to get content from educators and stakeholders will be taking place this fall, with the facility scheduled to open in May 2012.

Funding Status

Rusty Post informed the group that Ecology has not finalized their funding allocation for the Watershed Planning groups yet. He said it is likely that WRIA 56 will receive its full base grant funding for the year, which the WIT can use for administrative costs, as well as implementation projects. The amount of money that will be allocated for implementation projects statewide is uncertain at this point. Rusty also discussed the importance of strategic decision making when prioritizing projects for future funding.

Public Comment

Dale Gill discussed his personal opinion about some issues with watershed planning.

Part III: WRIA 56 Issues 11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay Chutas and the committee members introduced themselves.

Committee Reports and Updates

- **AWEP:** No updates. We are in between funding cycles at this time.
- **Livestock Project:** The SCD has completed its summer livestock inventory. They will be working on completing the inventory assessment this fall.

- **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SCD continues to monitor the groundwater in the monitoring wells in the Hangman Watershed.
- **Murdoch Project:** The streambank stabilization project at the Murdoch property near the confluence of Rock Creek at Hangman Creek on Valley Chapel Road is underway. The SCD and its contractors have realigned the channel and reconfigured the bank to a more stable design. They are installing stabilizing fabric and will be planting riparian plants and grasses to aid in stabilization of the bank.

Phase IV Priority Project Ranking

The following projects were presented and ranked to be the top three priorities. Walt Edelen will work to finalize the budgets and try to accommodate WIT priorities. After extensive discussion, the following projects ranked the highest:

- Development of Subdivision Water Availability and Sustainability Investigation Standards
- Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Expansion
- Irrigation Efficiency

Additionally, the group prioritized Administration and Facilitation for WRIA 56 for the budget. A Leak Detection project was discussed during the prioritization. The group decided the project was low priority.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.