

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
December 14, 2011

Location: Airway Heights Advanced Water Reclamation Facility, Airway Heights, WA.

Planning Unit members and guests in attendance / recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Jeff Leppo, URS Corporation
Mike Hamilton, Geologist
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Linda McCollum, Eastern Washington University
Wayne Parks, City of Airway Heights
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council
Dick Price, Stevens County PUD
Craig Volosing, Palisades Neighborhood
Charlie Peterson, Spokane Conservation District

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved minutes from the October 26, 2011 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Greenlund reported that in January the City of Spokane's West Plains annexation will be complete. Rob Lindsay reported that the County will continue its indoor water conservation rebate program into 2012, that the County is moving forward in development of a water resources center at the new Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility, and that the Board of County Commissioners decided to close the Boundary Review Board. Rob also reported that Spokane County Utilities will be doing an update to the Comprehensive Waster Water Management Plan in 2012 including a review of the Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) ordinance.

PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES

Mike Hermanson reported on several projects. The West Plains Ground Water Monitoring project is ongoing. Since the October meeting project activities have included monthly monitoring, collection of data logger data, and review of data. The Spokane Conservation District has selected a consultant for their groundwater study in WRIA 54 and 56. As part of the project the consultant will be doing ground water age dating and stable isotope analysis. We are currently working with the Conservation District and their consultant to coordinate the wells that will be sampled. The County is putting out an RFQ for the ground water availability and sustainability standard project.

Charlie Kessler was not able to attend the meeting so Mike Hermanson provided an update on the Stevens County Conservation District projects. They recently received the flourometer that will be used to sample for optical brighteners found in laundry detergent as an indicator of septic influent to the lake. They will be purchasing the satellite total phosphorus data after the first of the year.

Linda McCollum reported that the they have finished the last portion of the geologic maps and now are in the process of organizing the data and putting in the form to be published. They are also working on the basalt

stratigraphy project that is funded by a separate Ecology implementation grant. They have been collecting basalt samples from outcrops for analysis.

Rusty Post reported that they are finalizing the scope of work for the Stevens County Conservation District Education project that is funded with a separate implementation grant.

Amanda Parish provided an update on the Deep and Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration Project. They were able to do some broadcast seeding on bare ground in the Deep and Coulee Creek Watersheds this fall. The goal was to seed eroded stream banks without disturbing the ground before any snowfall. They have five confirmed land owners that they are going to be working with in the spring.

Mike Hermanson provided an update on a project that Spokane County is working on that is funded by WRIA 55/57 but is related to WRIA 54. The County is updating the Spokane County Water Demand Model with 2010 Census data and adding a consumptive use and return flow portion to the model.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FUNDING SOURCES

Rusty Post said the reason for this agenda item is that the other two Spokane area watershed groups are at the end of their Phase IV funding and are evaluating how to fund their groups in the future. There are opportunities for collaboration on common issues, such as the current water availability and sustainability project. Rob Lindsay said the County is interested in keeping the process moving forward. Rob described some funding mechanisms used in the state such as in Island County and the APA in Spokane County. The key to those mechanisms is a clear, present, and definable problem. Rob also brought up the ability of water purveyors to direct funds to watershed planning. Doug Greenlund identified the need to define what administration of the group would entail, how much it would cost, what the outputs would be, etc. Dick Price described the funding mechanism for the Colville Watershed Group. The City of Chewelah, the City of Colville, Stevens PUD and Stevens County have each contributed \$5,000 to the watershed planning process, mainly directed at keeping stream flow gages running. The group discussed the role of watershed groups in the region.

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on February 22, 2011 from 10-12 at the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility.

ADJOURN

Rusty Post adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.