

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

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

**Wednesday March 7, 2012  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Spokane Conservation District Conference Room  
Spokane, WA**

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

Walt Edelen, <i>SCD</i>	Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</i>
Bill Abrahamse, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCD</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Dale Gill, <i>LSR Resident</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>
Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Resident</i>
Katherine Rowden, <i>National Weather Service</i>	Jase Brooks, <i>Americorps/University of Idaho</i>

**Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

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

**Committee Reports and Updates:**

**National Weather Service Update**

Katherine Rowden from the National Weather Service (NWS) gave a river volume supply update to the group. The regional rivers are about 90% of average and the potential for low flows still exist. The precipitation deficit since summer 2011 is still present.

**West Branch Update**

1. A WB-LSR Watershed Committee meeting will be held Mon. April 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Riverside Fire Station #46.
2. Pend Oreille Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Management Area meeting has been changed to 9:00 a.m. April 13 @ PO PUD, Newport.
3. A Diamond Lake Improvement Association meeting was held March 7 about high water and beavers while also working with WDFW on the possibility of installing an inspection station and a boat wash station.
4. The Eloika Lake spring event will be held Thursday April 12 at Fire District station #44 on HWY 2 at Carney Road, due west of Cat Tales. Geology professor, Stan Grant will present local photos and details on the impacts of the Missoula Floods on the Little Spokane River Basin.

**Water Availability and Sustainability Standards**

Rob Lindsay gave an update about the Water Availability and Sustainability Standards meetings. The last meeting was held February 29 and was well attended. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29.

## **H2O Breakfast**

An informational bi-state meeting was held February 9 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The meeting featured Patricia Mulroy from the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Ted Sturdevant from the WA Dept of Ecology, and Gary Spackman of ID Water Resources. They focused on Bi-State opportunities for regional collaboration for water resource use and planning.

## **LSR TMDL Update**

Rick Noll announced that Ecology has finished the LSR TMDL and submitted it to the EPA. The SCD and Ecology will be hosting review sessions for the document on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Fire station and on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Camden Grange.

## **Implementation MOA**

The current implementation MOA will not expire until January 2013. The MOA is very specific to WRIA 55/57. It does not seem appropriate to modify the current MOA to combine it with WRIA 56 and WRIA 54 as it would be a large amount of work for seemingly little gain. The group decided to keep the MOA's for the 3 WRIA groups separate.

## **Livestock and Land Workshops**

The SCD will be hosting a Livestock and Land workshop at the Camden Grange on March 10 from 9-4. The workshop will focus on pasture management, chore efficiency, animal health, mud and manure management, and other topics that will improve livestock facilities and reduce negative water quality impacts.

## **Part II: Joint WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 Issues 10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.**

Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with no changes.

## **Future WRIA Meetings Discussion**

The group discussed a variety of topics pertaining to future WRIA meetings and priorities for the group moving forward. Walt and Rob presented the group with budget options, amount of money required to administer meetings for both WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 with joint meetings costs between \$8,000 and \$12,000 annually. The variability of costs is due to the number of grants at one time being administered as well as level of detail in reporting the group would like from each meeting and with the annual reports and other variable tasks. It was not decided who would manage the financial side of the administration if there were WIT member contributions.

The group felt that the meetings provided a platform for collaboration, sourcing and information sharing and the members of the group enthusiastically encouraged keeping the meeting momentum moving forward. The group supported keeping future meetings as a monthly occurrence, except for holidays and necessary cancellations. The group supported having the joint meeting expanded to include WRIA 54 as a regular, three WRIA, monthly, joint meeting. The group asked for more regional updates and water quality updates when available. The group briefly discussed the pros and cons of restructuring to form a non-profit in order to go after different funding sources. It was encouraged that the watershed planning efforts need to be better supported by the community and more effectively communicated to obtain local support.

Finally, the group discussed their top priorities for implementation activities for the future. These priorities included: Education of water quantity issues through raising public awareness and schools, regional conservation programs, wetland restoration and preservation of functional wetlands, implementation of previously identified projects

including improvements to riparian habitat and stream banks, water resource monitoring, and appropriate use and promotion of beaver as agents of restoration.

### **Part III: WRIA 56 Issues 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.**

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

#### **Committee Reports and Updates**

##### **Trout Unlimited Upcoming Projects**

Bill Abrahamse informed the group of a potential project on Hangman Creek upstream of the Valley Chapel Road Bridge. The Inland Northwest Land Trust has scheduled planting events scheduled for Tuesday's and Thursday's in March and April.

##### **National Weather Service Update**

Katherine Rowden from the National Weather Service (NWS) gave a river volume supply update to the group. The regional rivers are about 90% of average and the potential for low flows still exist. The precipitation deficit since summer 2011 is still present.

##### **Watershed Management Plan Update**

Walt announced the Watershed Management Plan Update draft will be presented at the next WRIA 56 meeting. Each part of the update has been presented and will be arranged in the plan.

##### **AWEP**

The NRCS has announced the application window for final round of AWEP funding. \$419,000 is available to Hangman Creek Watershed (including Idaho) projects this year, and the NRCS is accepting applications for the program. Projects involving tillage, fencing, stream stabilization projects and similar projects will be prioritized for funding. The application window closes March 16.

##### **Livestock Projects**

The SCD will be hosting a Livestock and Land workshop at the Fairfield Community Center on March 11 from 9-4. The workshop will focus on pasture management, chore efficiency, animal health, mud and manure management, and other topics that will improve livestock facilities and reduce water quality impacts.

##### **Phosphorus Hot Spots**

Lindsay gave a presentation about the SCD's Phosphorus Hot Spot Project. The project was part of the Hangman Creek Phosphorus Reduction Grant. The project combined all of the available phosphorus data from water quality and soil sampling with the erosion potential from the Pacific Southwest Inter-Agency Committee (PSIAC) sediment yield ratings. The resulting maps can be used to identify potential phosphorus hot spots in the Hangman Watershed. The results showed the highest potential phosphorus problems to be located in the middle to upper watershed as well as on the tributaries Rattlers Run and Cove Creek.

##### **Bi-State Water Quality Meetings**

Walt announced the Bi-State group is planning on meeting in the near future.

##### **WSDOT 195/Cheney Spokane Interchange**

Rick gave a presentation about the WSDOT 195/Cheney-Spokane Road interchange. WSDOT has redesigned the interchange to improve safety. The construction of the

interchange has been changed to not encroach on Hangman Creek. Construction is planned to begin in 2012 and planting is scheduled for 2013. WSDOT plans to utilize rip-rap and plants to strengthen the bank and reduce erosion at the site.

**Willow Warrior Weekend**

The SCD is partnering with the Lands Council and Trout Unlimited to host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Willow Warrior Weekend. They will plant willow whips along sections of Hangman Creek. The event is scheduled for April 13 and 14.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.