

**Meeting Summary**  
**WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed**  
**March 28, 2012**

**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  
Larry Guenther, Stevens County Commissioner  
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane  
Lance Peterson, City of Airway Heights  
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District  
Charlie Peterson, Spokane Conservation District  
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors  
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council  
Linda McCollum, EWU  
Scott Huntsell, Lincoln County Commissioner  
Michael Hamilton, Geologist

**CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Rob Lindsay opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved minutes from the February 22, 2012 meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Rob provided an update on the current ongoing legislative session. At this time the Watershed Planning budget passed in 2011 is still intact which means the WRIA 54 group has been allocated \$100,000 for the next fiscal year (6/2012-6/2013). Commissioner Huntsell told the group that there is a lot of local support for watershed planning all over the state.

**PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES**

**Water Availability and Sustainability Project**

Mike Hermanson provided a project update. The first meeting was held on February 29<sup>th</sup> and there was a very good turnout that included many interest groups that have not to date participated actively in watershed planning. The first meeting was mostly background on the issues.

**Groundwater Age Dating Project**

This project is being conducted in conjunction with a project that the Spokane Conservation District is doing in WRIA 54/56 which includes installation of monitoring wells and sampling and analysis of groundwater samples for routine constituents, stable isotopes, carbon 14, and tritium. WRIA 54 has contributed funds for sampling and analysis of seven additional wells. The wells have been selected and sampling will be conducted during the next synoptic water level measurement that is part of the West Plains Groundwater Monitoring Project.

### **Lake Spokane Water Quality Project**

Charlie Kessler provided a project update. They are currently doing GIS analysis to characterize the Suncrest area with respect to age and location of septic tanks, soil types, etc. They are beginning to do sampling for optical brighteners and fecal coliform, and will begin doing it weekly after this week. Charlie, Meghan Lunney (Avista), and Mike Hermanson met to choose dates for the satellite analysis of total phosphorus. The Conservation District has received the data for two dates last summer and is beginning to analyze it.

### **EWU West Plains Geology Projects**

Linda McCollum provided a project update. The geologic mapping project is in the final stages of getting the data ready to publish. They just received the first batch of geochemistry results for the basalt stratigraphy project.

### **Deep and Coulee Creek Restoration Project**

Amanda Parrish provided a project update. They will be receiving plants for the project shortly and will be planting this spring. The biggest challenge for this project and other restoration projects is mortality during the first year. For this project they are going to use willow poles rather than whips to try and address the problem.

### **SPOKANE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES CENTER PRESENTATION**

Rob Lindsay gave a presentation on the Water Resource Center that is located at the new Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility. There will be an open house on May 10.

### **ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on April 25, 2011 from 10-12 at the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility.

### **ADJOURN**

Rob Lindsay adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.