

**Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
August 28, 2013**

Location: Spokane County Water Resource Center

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

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Dick Price, Stevens PUD
James Melick, Citizen
Lindsey Chutas, Spokane Conservation District
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors/Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association
Linda Kiefer, Avista Corporation
Allyson Beall-King, WSU
Melanie Thorton, WSU

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved the July 24th 2013 meeting summary.

PUBLIC COMMENT/WIT MEMBER UPDATES

Doug Greenlund informed the group that the WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 groups are in the process of developing a regional MOA, and there has been discussion of adding WRIA 54 group to that MOA. There is currently a draft MOA that is in review by the City of Spokane legal staff. Rusty Post suggested that a discussion of the MOA by the group be added to next meeting's agenda

Charlie Kessler provided an update on the project proposal that is being developed for the USGS to do a study of the ground and surface water interaction of the near shore areas of Lake Spokane. The USGS is currently developing a scope of work.

Charlie Kessler also provided an update on the Lake Spokane education project. He is currently meeting with teachers to organize and schedule this fall's activities. He also said that the Stevens County Conservation District received an Ecology grant to do water quality BMP throughout Stevens county, and there will be a focus on the Lake Spokane area.

PRESENTATION: SPOKANE COUNTY WATER DEMAND MODEL UPDATE-NEW DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS & NON-CONSUMPTIVE USE/RETURN FLOW COMPONENTS

Mike Hermanson gave a presentation on new work that has been done to the Spokane County Water Demand Forecast Model that was developed in 2010 and 2011. Some key points of the presentation were:

- The model was updated with new demographic forecasts developed with information from the 2010 Census, and new population forecasts from the Washington Office of Financial Management.
- The model was updated to segregate consumptive water use and non-consumptive water use and route the return flows to the appropriate places such as municipal waste water treatments plants, septic systems, return to the ground from landscape irrigation, etc.
- The new demographic forecast has a smaller baseline, and a similar growth rate. One of the biggest differences was the growth rate of the Self Supplied Residential water use sector. The previous growth rate was 46.5% and the new growth rate is 84.0%

PRESENTATION: COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN-WATERSHED INTEGRATED SYSTEMS DYNAMICS MODELING PROJECT (WISDM)

Alyson Beall and Melanie Thorton gave a presentation on the components of the WISDM project that they are working on. The WISDM project is a multidisciplinary project lead by WSU to study the relationships of water resources, water quality, climate change, and human behavior. They are focusing on ways to communicate scientific information beyond the scientific community to policy makers, elected officials, the public, etc. They are building a systems dynamics model of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer system. A systems dynamics model is a simplified version of complex models of a natural system that allow real time evaluation of different input scenarios. For example creating the input files for the SVRP aquifer model to evaluate the impacts of increased pumping in a particular location on Spokane River flows is a time consuming task that requires knowledge and experience with the SVRP model. The systems dynamics allows for that scenario to be evaluated in real time by changing one value on a user friendly interface. While the systems dynamics model is not as accurate as the actual model, the accuracy is sufficient to facilitate discussion and bring the scientific information to a wider audience.

FY13-15 PROJECTS

Spokane County, Stevens County Conservation District, and the Lands Council are currently working on the scope of work for each of the WRIA 54 Phase IV projects. Spokane County is in the process of developing a scope of work for the West Plains Hydrogeologic Framework project.

ADJOURN

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