

Meeting Notice

A meeting of the Planning Unit for the WRIA 55 and 57 Local Watershed Planning program for will be held at:

Time: 10:00 am
Date: March 15, 2000
Place: Main Floor Conference Room
Spokane County Conservation District
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

Agenda

- 10:00 am** Call to Order - Introductions by Committee Members
- 10:05** Approval of meeting summaries for the February 16th meeting.
- 10:10** Technical Considerations
- Sub Committee Work Group reports
3 – 5 minute on status of Work Groups
- Public Meeting Work Group discussion
Members of the Work Group and staff will discuss Planning Unit participation in the meetings. We will discuss items such as attendance, Committee member participation and, overall meeting content.
- 11:15** Policy Considerations
- As we move into Phase II of Watershed Planning, public meetings and a wider knowledge of the program that time and publicity allows will likely result in comments about our work from citizens not on the Planning Unit. The policy question that needs to be addressed is: How will comments from non – Planning Unit members of the public be incorporated into our work?
- 11:50** Committee Organization
- No item scheduled
- 11:50** Other items of Committee Concern
- 11:59** Set next meeting date and location
- 12:00** Adjourn

If you have any questions regarding this notice contact Stan Miller at (509) 477-7259 or via e-mail at smiller@spokanecounty.or

Meeting Summary

Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan

March 15, 2000

Stan Miller called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

David Jones
Gary Fergen
Susan McGeorge
Lloyd Brewer
Joel White
Steve Skipworth

Ann Murphy
Doug Allen
Stan Miller
Kima Simonson
Roger Krieger

Charlott Yergens
Jim Wilson
Reanette Boese
Leon Sproule
Tom Hargreaves

The meeting summary was approved with the addition of Steve Erby as an attendee and a correction to the spelling of Gary Fergen's name.

The committee approved changing the agenda to allow the Public Meetings sub – committee to report on their work prior the other groups.

The Public Meeting Sub – committee distributed a general agenda for the meeting and a draft press release that will be used for publicizing the event. These items should be considered as attachments to this meeting summary. Meetings have been scheduled for the Riverside High School Library on March 22nd and at Centennial Middle School on March 29th. Both meetings will start at 7:00 pm and end by 9:00 pm.

The general public will be introduced to the program through a number of displays that will be set up for viewing prior to 7:00 pm. Formal presentations will start at 7:30 with Ann Murphy serving as facilitator for the program.. Leon Sproule did a run through of his overview of the WRIA planning program. Tom Hargreaves and Steve Skipworth presented a brief review of the area specific ideas they will present at the northside meeting (Tom) and the Valley meeting (Steve).

The formal presentations will be followed by a question and answer session with staff and committee members available to answer questions from the public.

Following the presentations and a brief discussion of them the committee approved the general program by consensus and suggested additional information and displays to have at the Public Meetings.

The agenda next item was a brief overview of the work of several sub – committee groups.

The Sub – group for Task 4.1 reported that WDFW will not do IFIM on the Spokane R as Avista will likely do this for relicensing their dams. We can probably have work done on the Little Spokane. The group is also looking into having some “invertebrate” work done to help assess the biological health of the Rivers.

The Sub – group for Task 7 reported that they are organizing a data summarization effort for water quality on the Spokane River. The LSR is undergoing a similar review under a SCCD contract with Ecology.

The Sub – group for task 2.1 – 2.2 is recommending that the LSR Basin be broken into the following sub units for study purposes: the Upper Main Stem, the West Branch, Dragoon Creek, Deer Creek – Little Deep Creek, Deadman Creek and the lower LSR. The group noted that at a minimum ground water in the Deer Park Basin, the Middle LSR, and Pend Oreille – LSR areas be examined. Studies for the Newport and Deer Park Wellhead Protection Programs should be consulted. The group also put investigation of the groundwater connection between WRIA 55 and 57 as a priority for future investigation. The group recommended that aside from the ground water connection with WRIA 55, WRIA 57 should be considered as a unit. Care needs to be taken to not include drainage from the east slope of Mt. Spokane twice – water from this part of the basin recharges the Aquifer in Idaho and crosses into Washington via ground water.

The Sub – group for Task 2.3 reported that discussions with Ray Smith of USGS indicate that flow measurement with as little as 5% error should be possible at at the lower end of the flow range we are most concerned with in the system.. There may be financial problems keeping all of the reactivated gauges going. There appeared to be a consensus of the committee that continuing the gaging would be an appropriate use of WRIA planning funds.

The Task 3 Sub – group is making good progress on their work. The public water suppliers are reworking the reporting form used to collect water pumping information the 1996 GMA study. Ecology has provided discharge records for several industrial users; cooperation by these users should result in fairly good water withdrawal rates. Ag people are also pulling together their part of the equation. One question that remains is how much water is used on cemeteries. Most have their own water system and they may be significant users.

Under Policy Considerations the committee discussed ways to incorporate public views into the decisions of the Planning Unit. Two concrete suggestions emerged. First, continue notification of the general public of our meetings through the use of a general mailing list. Allow the general public to participate in discussions of the group and consider the input on par with that of other committee members. Objections to positions favored by a member of the public will be handled as we would handle those from any other member. Further discussion of this will take place if problems emerge. Second, we should include an agenda item that encourages input from the general public. We could also have a sign up sheet for members of the public to use to tell us they wish to speak. It was suggested that we put notice of the committee meetings in the “organizations” meeting section of the paper if we are going to have regular meetings,

The next meeting was set for April 19, 2000 at the same time and location. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.