

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: April 19, 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 March 15th meeting.
- 10:10** Technical Considerations
- Status of Request for Qualifications
- Availability of Task 0 Sub – committee for review of proposals.
- 10:20** Committee Organization
- Report on Public Meetings: Task 1.4 Subcommittee, Staff
- 10:50** Policy Considerations
- Continued discussion of how to incorporate public comment into the work of the Planning Unit. (15 min.)
- Discussion of in – stream flow police for the Spokane River and the Little Spokane River. (45 min.)
- 11:50** Other items of Public or 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

April 19, 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
Steve Skipworth
Ann Murphy
Doug Allen
Stan Miller
Kima Simonson

Roger Krieger
Bev Keating
Walt Edelen
Ty Wick
Paul Hudson
Rachael Paschal
John Monks
Gary Gray

Marvel Travis
Jim Wilson
Reanette Boese
Leon Sproule
Tom Hargreaves
Steve Roberge
Chris Pitre
Dick Price

The meeting summary was approved by consensus of the group.

The Scope of Work for the Phase II work has been given to the County Purchasing Department to incorporate into the Request for Qualifications that will be used to select a technical consultant.

The general consensus of those attending the two Public Meetings was that they went well. There were eight to ten non-committee citizens at each of the meetings. This is a good turn out for meetings that provide general information on programs not having a great deal of controversy.

The follow up discussion on incorporating general public comments into our work resulted in the suggestion that some sort of periodic “report” on planning unit activities be prepared on a regular basis. This may evolve into a program newsletter. In the interim it will be something groups with newsletters may wish to include in their publications so their members are kept up to date.

The committee also requested that report on what the other work groups are doing be made at the next meeting. These will be put on the agenda.

The Sub – group for Task 4.1 presented its “final” recommendations on in stream flows for aquatic biota to the Planning Unit. To introduce the presentation on flow for aquatic biota an overview of the four “minimum flow” values we will use in our planning were described. In addition to the aquatic biota value, we will use flows for optimum recreational use, for optimum water quality conditions and for optimal power production.

Doug Allen provided a background on the way the current 2000 cfs fish flow was developed. He describe the agreement for interagency cooperation on issuing new water rights and how a water rights application for the Spokane River triggered a formal process. The process involved an interagency consultation between Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology. The consultation resulted in lowering the recommended flow from 60% of mean annual (about 4000 cfs) to a 50% exceedence value base on pre-Post Falls Dam flow data (about 2000 cfs). Doug also reported that, while

WDFW will not do IFIM on the Spokane River, the Habitat Simulation work is a high priority for the Little Spokane this summer.

Rachael Paschal presented a summary of the Task 4.1 work groups recommendation for use in developing an in stream flow for our planning purposes. Four options were discussed:

- Make no recommendation for an aquatic habitat number
- Use the current 2000-cfs as a recommended flow
- The Watershed Planning Unit can provide a new number to use in our work
- Funding can be re-allocated to do IFIM on the Spokane River – could be up to \$100K.

The work groups' recommendation was: use the current 2000 cfs and direct the consultant to develop a method for adapting any recommendations related to the instream flow for fish to accommodate a new value should future work create one.

After a significant discussion the Planning Unit members present agreed to use the work group recommendation for current planning. Several members questioned the use of a number that is probably not achievable. It was pointed out that the "fish flow" technically provides the best possible environment for fish and thus does not consider achievability. The idea that this might not be the highest low flow we get for the four areas we are considering. For example, recreational users may desire flows higher than 2000 cfs to keep the river "navigable."

Doug Allen handed out information of projected Ecology staff needs for working with the several current and developing Watershed programs in the Eastern Region. He asked that the committee review the information and make a recommendation on Ecology support levels at the May meeting.

Under the Agenda item Other Items of Public or Committee Concern it was suggested that Subcommittee, work group, meeting notices be sent to the Planning Unit. It was agreed that this would be done.

The next meeting was set for May 17, 2000 at the same time and location. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.