

Meeting Notice

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

Time: 10:00 am
Date: January 16, 2002
Place: Conference Room
Spokane County Conservation District
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

Agenda

- 10:00 am Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**
Facilitator Lead
- 10:05 am Discuss and Approve December Meeting Summary**
Facilitator Lead
- 10:10 Discuss Draft Data Compilation and Assessment Report Comment Process**
Facilitator Lead
- 10:25 Update on Phase 3 Funding**
Two newsletters required in FY 2002 Contract amendment
Status of supplemental funding for instream flow work
Stan Miller
- 10:40 Update on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work**
Stan Miller
- 10:55 Discuss and Begin to Define Process for Developing the Watershed Plan**
Overview: Stan Miller
Facilitator Lead
- 11:25 Other items of Public or Committee Concern**
Facilitator Lead
- 11:55 Wrap Up of Session: Facilitator summarizes information presented**
- 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.org

**Meeting Summary
Planning Unit**

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
January 16, 2002

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Doug Allen | Bruce Howard | Ty Wick |
| Rick Noll | Roger Krieger | Steve Skipworth |
| Jim Wilson | Bryony Hansen | Neil Beaver |
| Anita Albi | Reanette Boese | Stan Miller |
| August Koedding | Lloyd Brewer | Sarah Hubbard-Gray |

Guests that attended the meeting and were recorded on the sign in sheet were: Jane Cunningham.

Introductions: Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah provided an overview of the agenda and asked if there were comments on the December 5, 2001 Meeting Summary. Gus Koedding clarified that he did not agree to join the Instream Flow Work Group, but that he would ask the Home Builders Association if he can be on the Work Group as a representative of the Home Builders Association. There were no other comments on the meeting summary.

Discuss Draft Data Compilation and Assessment Report Comment Process: Bryony Hansen/Golder Associates provided an overview of the comments received to date. Spokane County Planning Department and the Spokane County Conservation District provided comments and several Planning Unit representatives called with questions. Bryony asked for all of the Planning Unit representatives to contact her and let her know if they do not have comments so she will know that all comments have been submitted.

Questions were raised regarding the process for Planning Unit review of the comments submitted. Bryony explained that she will be compiling a list of the comments; each comment will have a reference designating the page and paragraph it relates to. The list of comments will be mailed to the Planning Unit representatives prior to the February 20, 2002 meeting. Time will be provided at the February meeting to discuss the comments and address conflicting and minority view comments. After the comments have been reviewed the Planning Unit will decide if a subcommittee/work group should be formed to further review the comments.

Water Rights and Claims Work Group Update: Reanette Boese gave an update on the Water Rights and Claims Work Group activities. They 1) reviewed the Deadman Creek

Adjudication to provide additional information about potentially invalid rights and claims, 2) evaluated potential duplicate claims, and 3) got irrigation information from WSU Cooperative Extension to provide a reference/basis for the three and four feet duties that are used in the Draft Data Compilation and Assessment Report (Report). Review of the Deadman Creek surface water Adjudication showed about 40% of the original annual quantity was considered valid. Planning Unit comments included:

- It was agreed that a disclaimer would be included in the Report regarding the purpose of use terms utilized and that the terms are not legally based.
- The designations of the water rights in the report should be realistic and coincide with the actual water use – if the water is used for domestic use it should be listed as domestic even if the water right designation is for irrigation and domestic, etc.

Update on Phase 3 Funding: Stan Miller explained that Ecology issued a contract amendment that covers the project work through June 2002. It includes \$99,000 to address data gaps, public involvement, and to begin the Watershed Plan development. Stan indicated that:

- Upcoming Planning Unit meetings will involve development of recommendation elements for the draft Plan.
- Project newsletters are included in the contract amendment. They will be published in March and June 2002, and time at the March and June Planning Unit meetings will involve wrapping up the newsletter content. Additional effort will also be made at expanding the distribution list to get the newsletters out to the broader public.
- The instream flow supplemental funding should be available by the end of March 2002. This timing should work for the project since there is already good flow data available from the Spokane County Conservation District's work done last year.

Doug Allen indicated that Ecology is anticipating getting full Watershed Planning funding for the 2002 – 2003 fiscal year.

Update on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work: Stan Miller gave an update on the Little Spokane River Instream Flow work and discussed the memo from the December 2001 Work Group meeting. Some of the current items being considered include:

- Need to discuss gauging at locations other than Dartford – Ecology's regulations call out four locations. Need to evaluate what it will take to put in and maintain additional gauges that will enable better river management and potentially decrease the need to cut off as many junior claims in low flow months.

- Since new gauges are expensive, and real time gauges cost twice as much (approximately \$8000 per year), there needs to be an evaluation of whether the new gauges should be incorporated into the Plan as a recommendation.
- The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to better understand tributary flows. Need to evaluate how to incorporate tributary flows needed to sustain fish into the Little Spokane River instream flow scope, since water rights regulations are based on the main stem flows.

Discuss and Begin to Define Process for Developing the Watershed Plan: Stan Miller passed out a conceptual outline for the WRIA 55 and 57 Watershed Plan. The first few sections set the stage and provide background information. Additional sections relating to Regional Water Use Priorities, Analysis of Available Water, Recommended Actions, and Implementation will require lots of Planning Unit input and discussions. Work on these sections will begin next month. The following Planning Unit comments and suggestions were provided:

- Department of Health reclaimed water specialist, Craig Riley, has a good presentation that would be good for the Planning Unit to hear.
- Some felt that before the Planning Unit gets into prioritizing, they need to review and understand the technical issues and make sure everyone is on the same page. Stan Miller indicated that the assessment and conclusions that relate to the upfront background section of the Watershed Plan will not be complete until the modeling is done.
- It was suggested that the Planning Unit begin working on identifying the current and future water needs and start working on priorities prior to getting the complete technical summary. Starting on the prioritization now can help set the stage and feed into the recommendations, which can be re-evaluated based on the complete technical assessment.
- The Planning Unit needs to review the basis of planning and Memorandum of Agreement that was developed at the beginning of the project. Then procedures and operating protocols should be developed that will guide the group in the decision making process. During the development of the Plan, the Initiating Agencies must reach consensus, however, others can vote and override decisions.

Other Items Discussed: Bruce Howard provided an update on the Spokane River Hydroelectric Facilities relicensing process. He said efforts were ongoing, but that no public meetings for 2002 have been scheduled yet. Avista is still collecting comments on the relicensing process and there should be a mailing going out in the next few weeks.

Stan Miller provided an update on the Spokane Area Chamber and Coeur d'Alene Chamber proposed long term aquifer and water availability study. They are still pursuing funds for

the study, but it is unlikely that any funds will be available for two years. Stan is hopeful that their work/efforts will be compatible with and build upon the Planning Unit work and that it helps facilitate Idaho and Washington State cooperation regarding water rights and usage.

The next Planning Unit meeting was set for February 20, 2002 at 10:00 am.