

Meeting Notice

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

Time: 9:30 am (Note different time than usual!)
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2002
Place: Conference Room
Spokane County Conservation District
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

Agenda

- 9:30 am** **Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**
Discuss and Approve July 8, 2002 Meeting Summary
Facilitator Lead
- 9:35** **Report on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Scope of Work and Field Study**
Stan Miller
- 9:50** **Report on Benthic Invertebrate Study**
Susanne Canwell, Eastern Washington University
- 10:35** **Update on Model Development**
Stan Miller and Bryony Hansen
- 10:50** **Status of Data Compilation Report**
Stan Miller and Bryony Hansen
- 11:05** **Continued Discussion: Plan Recommendation Decision Making Options**
Planning Unit Decision on which Option to Adopt
Note: The Planning Unit will be asked to make a decision at this meeting; consensus building and possible voting will occur!!
Facilitator Lead
- 11:45** **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
September 18, 2002

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Doug Allen	Ty Wick	Rachael Pashcal Osborn
Lloyd Brewer	Susan McGeorge	Tom Hargreaves
Harry McLean	Steve Skipworth	Karin Divens
Terry Liberty	Walt Edelen	Stan Miller
Jane Cunningham	Megan Harding	Reanette Boese
Ken Kuhn	Rick Noll	

Consultants that attended the meeting were: Sarah Hubbard-Gray of Hubbard Gray Consulting and Bryony Hansen of Golder Associates.

Guests that attended the meeting were: Bruce Lang and Susanne Canwell, Eastern Washington University.

Introductions: Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah provided an overview of the agenda and asked if there were comments on the July 8, 2002 Meeting Summary. There were no comments on the meeting summary.

Report on Little Spokane River Instream Flow Scope of Work and Field Study: Stan Miller reviewed the approved scope of work that covers data collection at 6 sites. He explained that on Monday September 23, 2002 field work with Golder Associates staff will begin. They will be starting to collect data at the bottom of the hydrograph so a full water year of data can be collected. It is typically preferred to start at the top of the hydrograph, but starting at the bottom will work, especially if we don't get a huge runoff. Stan also explained that Spokane Community College water resource group, under Erin Cunningham's direction, will be helping with the stream gauges.

Report on Benthic Invertebrate Study: Susanne Canwell, a graduate student at Eastern Washington University, presented the preliminary results of her benthic invertebrate study that she is doing for her master's thesis. She provided background information on macro-invertebrates, the variations between different species, the species that are used as indicator species, and their role in evaluating stream health. She showed the locations in the Little Spokane River basin where samples were taken in the Fall 2000, Spring 2001, Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, and explained the mathematical conversion of data to one value that indicates stream health. She discussed the differences between the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 data, and explained that she is looking at correlations between the benthic species present and land use. The Conclusions and recommendations from this study will be incorporated into her master's thesis. Planning Unit representatives asked a variety of questions and there was continued discussion relating to water quantity, how the sites were selected, regional comparisons and correlations to other data, and the basis of the metrics conversions.

Update on Model Development: Stan Miller passed out a graph showing some of the current MIKE Model results, and provided explanations for each graph. He discussed the model status and some of the results. The big Spokane River portions are working well, however, the Little Spokane portions have some problems because better groundwater connectivity data needs to be added to the model so the model outputs are consistent with the stream gauge measurements. Stan indicated that he expects the model to be ready to use to help make recommendations by the end of November, especially for the Middle Spokane River watershed. Planning Unit members asked and discussed what other data could help get better model results (e.g., substrate information, seepage data).

Status of Data Compilation Report: Stan Miller and Bryony Hansen provided an update on the status of the Data Compilation Report. It was explained that Stan Miller and Lloyd Brewer were providing updates to Chapter 6, that Spokane County is fixing typos in the report, and that Golder is revising the bibliography and changing some graphics. It is expected that the report will be finalized by the end of October 2002.

Continued Discussion: Plan Recommendation Decision Making Options and Planning Unit Decision on which Option to Adopt: Sarah Hubbard-Gray posted Options A and B on the wall and described the differences between the two. The Planning Unit discussed the two options and provided various opinions, including:

- Many other planning units are using total consensus, but other options will work, especially since all decisions are made in good faith and planning unit members can not fully obligate their agency/organization.
- Even when consensus is used, the state law requires that all decisions must be demonstrated by a vote.
- Minority reports should be developed.

Sarah Hubbard-Gray asked the Planning Unit representatives to place green dots on all of the options they “can live with” and red dots on all the options they “can not live with”. The results of the dot exercise are summarized below:

- **Option #A** – 7 can live with and 7 can not live with
- **Option #B** – 12 can live with and 2 can not live with

After reviewing the dot exercise results, the Planning Unit representatives further discussed the options and associated concerns, including:

- Concern was expressed about Option B relating to the need to go back and get a revised Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Initiating Agencies (Lloyd Brewer specifically expressed concern about his ability to get the City of Spokane Council to sign a new MOA).
- Concern that Option B would result in less motivation to reach consensus on recommendations was expressed.
- More can be gained by getting governments to try and reach consensus and fully exploring individual recommendations, rather than being able to quickly opt out.
- Requiring consensus could result in a veto on important items that the Planning Unit spent a lot of time working through, this could drive down the end quality of the watershed plan.

Following discussion, the Planning Unit representatives agreed by consensus that Option B, with minor edits, should be used for plan recommendation decision making. It was understood that this option may result in the need for a new Memorandum of Agreement to be drafted and signed by all initiating agencies, and that a better definition of “initiating” and “implementing” agencies is needed. The revised Option B that will be used for plan recommendation decision making is:

Plan Recommendation Decision Making:

Planning Unit Decision Making Process – Step 1:

- All Planning Unit members, **including Initiating Agency representatives**, will make a good faith effort to reach decisions through consensus. If there are minority opinions, they will be discussed and considered. Voting will only occur when consensus can not be reached.
- If a vote occurs, all Planning Unit members listed in Attachment B of the Memorandum of Agreement, or their designated representative, **including Initiating Agency representatives**, plus a new City of Liberty Lake representative, can vote.
- Planning Unit members must be at the Planning Unit meetings to vote, however, vote by proxy will be allowed.
- Simple majority vote will be used and there will not be a quorum requirement.
- When applicable, Planning Unit meeting notices will indicate in bold that consensus decision making, and possible voting, will occur.
- All recommendations will be discussed at a meeting prior to the meeting where a decision is made. Typically, discussions and consensus building will occur at one meeting, with a wrap up discussion and decision making occurring at a second meeting.

Initiating Agency Decision Making – Step 2:

- If the Initiating Agencies were not in consensus during Step 1, then a follow up meeting of the Initiating Agencies will be held to discuss the recommendation and make a good faith effort to reach consensus.
- If consensus can not be reached, individual Initiating Agencies would not be obligated to implement specific recommendations – in this case the individual agencies would not oppose the recommendation, but would not be obligated to implement the recommendation.
- All Initiating Agency meetings will be open to Planning Unit members to observe.

Other items of Public or Committee Concern: Reanette Boese announced that there will be a “How Does Our Water Measure Up?” open house on Saturday, September 28th from 10 am to 4 pm at the Centennial Trail parking lot at Barker Road. Steve Skipworth passed out a Vera Well #1 chart that shows the water depth and that it has not changed since 1966 – as a response to the recent media scare regarding water availability. Rachael Pashcal Osborn explained that Idaho is considering putting a water rights moratorium in place, that the issue has been confused by the understanding that Washington will lift its moratorium at the end of the WRIA 55 and 57 planning process, and that it would be helpful to

get clarification on this point. Stan Miller recommended that Idaho talk with Ecology's Water Resource staff to get clarification.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday October 23, 2002 at 10:00 am at the Spokane County Conservation District.