

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: Wednesday, April 16, 2003
Place: Conference Room
Spokane County Conservation District
210 N. Havana Spokane, WA

Agenda

- 10:00 am** **Call to Order: Introduction of Committee Members**
Discuss and Approve March 19, 2003 Meeting Summary
Facilitator Lead
- 10:10** **Status of Spokane River Instream Flow Scope of Work Development**
Stan Miller
- 10:30** **Model Scenarios Work Group Report**
Planning Unit Discussion
Reanette Boese and Facilitator
- 11:35** **Response from WRIA 54 Initiating Agency Poll**
Stan Miller
- 11:50** **Other items of Public or Committee Concern and Announcements**
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
April 16, 2003

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth</i>	<i>Conservation District</i>
Harry McLean, Jr., <i>City of</i>	<i>Water District</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands</i>
<i>Spokane Water</i>	Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of Little</i>	<i>Council</i>
Ken Kuhn, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	<i>Spokane Valley</i>	Stan Miller, <i>Spokane County</i>
<i>Planning</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint</i>	<i>Advisory Committee</i>	<i>County</i>
<i>Board</i>	Megan Harding, <i>WA State Dept.of</i>	Bill Gilmour, <i>Spokane County</i>
Julia McHugh, <i>SAJB</i>	<i>Health</i>	

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: Jeff MacLennan, Spokane Community College

Introductions: Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah asked for comments or corrections to the March 19, 2003 meeting summary. A change to the Little Spokane River Instream flow elements objectives and criteria was requested. It was agreed that the term salmonid, in the aquatic biota criteria, should be changed to rainbow trout and mountain whitefish. No additional comments or corrections to the meeting summary were requested.

Status of Spokane River Instream Flow Scope of Work Development: Stan Miller passed out Attachment C of the Spokane River Instream Flow Scope, which is the summary of the first round of data collection. Stan indicated that he is working with Hal Beecher of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Instream Flow Work Group has held two meetings (a summary of the March 19th meeting of the work group was passed out). At the meeting, they came up with the following goal for aquatic biota:

Determine flows needed to support spawning and emergence, rearing and summer survival for target species. Currently only rainbow trout have been identified as a target species in the middle Spokane River; if other species are important they need to be identified.

Stan explained the status of Avista's relicensing work and that it is continuing to be defined; they are currently reviewing the native vs. non-native trout issue with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He explained that the planning unit goals are different than Avista's. Avista's work will evaluate how dam operations can affect fisheries, within their limited ability to control flows with the types of run-of-the-river dams they have. They are looking at drawing more water out of Lake Coeur d'Alene during low flow, but it would likely raise the temperature of the river because less aquifer water would contribute to the total flow. However, Avista's work will not develop or recommend a minimum flow or flow regime. Stan will continue to work with Avista to define how the Planning Unit's work and Avista's work will be integrated.

Whereas, the Planning Unit work will determine what the best conditions are for fisheries and will evaluate how much water is needed to maximize the benefit to fish and other designated uses. Stan indicated that

since the Upriver reach is not being examined by Avista, the Planning Unit should decide if this reach should be evaluated. The following items were then discussed by the Planning Unit:

- It was clarified that the stated goal in the March 19th work group meeting summary is one of several that will be developed and used to guide the Planning Unit's instream flow work.
- Avista's work may focus more on dam operations and the spawning needs of the fish. They will not be evaluating the river segment upstream of Upriver Dam because their dam operations do not affect this reach.
- The Upriver reach has been discussed at Avista meetings, and identified as a reach that may or may not deserve more of Avista's attention. At this point it is still unclear if Avista will do work in this reach.
- If the Planning Unit was not doing instream flow work in the Middle Spokane River, Hal Beecher would consider Avista's work, evaluate if it is enough, and use it to develop the regulated Spokane River instream flow (minimum flow) value.
- Stan Miller explained that an acceptable result of this work for Hal Beecher, of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be the development of a flow regime rather than one specific minimum flow number. Stan indicated that he also recommends that the Planning Unit develop a "flow regime", not a specific minimum flow number.
- Stan indicated that he will invite Avista's consultant to the next Planning Unit meeting.

Model Scenarios Work Group Report: Reanette Boese reviewed the Work Group's last meeting and handed out revised model run scenarios. At the last work group meeting, they reviewed scenarios that had already been identified, evaluated which watersheds are affected, and developed thoughts and technical considerations for grouping the scenarios. Reanette explained that Golder staff provided feedback to the work group on what it would take to complete the suggested model runs and indicated that it would take at least 5 days to set up the runs and write a report. This time frame did not include much time for front-end set up work. So, if new information is needed, the time will increase. Golder staff also indicated that more control points are needed in the Little Spokane aquifer (e.g., well levels).

Reanette was asked when the Data Compilation Report would be completed and available. Reanette indicated that she would have the Data Compilation Report finalized and posted to the web site by the Planning Unit next meeting. The next Model Scenarios Work Group Meeting was set for Tuesday, May 13th at 1:30 at the Spokane County Conservation District.

Response from WRIA 54 Initiating Agency Poll: Stan Miller explained that letters were sent to all WRIA 54 initiating agencies two weeks ago. No responses have been received yet.

Other Items of Public or Committee Concern: The following information was shared with the group:

- Doug Allen indicated that a workshop is planned for the first week of June on conservation, water reclamation, re-use and aquifer storage. The workshop will provide CEU's for water purveyors and will review water conservation rate structures. Doug wants to involve members of the Watershed Planning Unit and explained that announcement flyers will go out soon.
- It was announced that the Lake Roosevelt Forum will be held on April 21st and 22nd (Mon and Tues) in Spokane at the Doubletree Inn.
- Stan Miller explained that he will be attending a meeting with County Commissioners to discuss the Northwest Power Planning Council's Intermountain Provice (IMP) Subbasin Planning effort which is focused on fish and wildlife habitat. This meeting will follow a Lake Roosevelt session on the IMP Subbasin Planning.

- Walt Edelen offered to provide updates on IMP subbasin planning effort to the Planning Unit at the next meeting.
- It was announced that on May 28th and 29th an Instream Flows Workshop (relating to watershed planning) will be held. The workshop will be held at the University of Washington and will have a Western Washington focus. Stan Miller indicated that he will attend.

Wrap Up: The next Planning Unit meeting was set for May 21, 2003 at 10:00am at the Spokane County Conservation District.