

## Meeting Summary Planning Unit

### Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan September 17, 2003

#### Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Megan Harding, <i>WA State Dept. of Health</i>	Don Comins, <i>Pend Oreille Conservation District</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County Conservation District</i>	Mary Wren, <i>City of Liberty Lake</i>
Harry McLean, Jr., <i>City of Spokane Water</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County Conservation District</i>	Stan Miller, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Jim Wilson, <i>Association of Realtors</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Julia McHugh, <i>SAJB</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Bill Gilmour, <i>Spokane County</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>		
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</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:** None.

**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 June 18, 2003 meeting summary. No comments were provided.

**Status of Little Spokane River Instream Flow Work:** Stan Miller announced that the final draft of the Little Spokane Instream Flow Report is posted on the project web page. The Planning Unit discussed when to cut off the comment period. Considering that the report had been posted to the web page 6 weeks ago, it was decided that the end of the comment period will be October 31, 2003. Stan indicated that a notice will go out to the mailing list.

Stan also provided an overview of what the Little Instream Flow analysis showed. He indicated that there was probably no historic spawning in the main stem of the Little Spokane River, and that there is still a need to find out if the spawning always occurs in the tributaries.

**Middle Spokane River Instream Flow Work:** Stan Miller passed out two documents, including 1) the Scope of Work for Avista's effort being conducted by Hardin Davis, and 2) the Middle Spokane River Instream Flow Study Outline.

The Planning Unit first reviewed Avista's scope of work and discussed a variety of issues, including:

- Two sites in Idaho and three sites in Washington will be studied and include transects to evaluate spawning habitat.
- Fish tracking study being done to evaluate if fish stay above or move below Sullivan Road during low flows.

- Watershed Planning money is being used to supplement Hardin Davis work being done for Avista to provide the additional data needed for the Planning Unit's instream flow analysis. In addition, Harden Davis will be available to attend two Planning Unit meetings to review the study results.
- Avista is manipulating the river flows so one year's worth of data collection can be gathered in the fall of 2003. The report should be completed by February 2004.

The Planning Unit then reviewed the Middle Spokane Instream Flow Study Outline and discussed a variety of issues, including:

- Stan Miller explained the sites to be studied, which include spawning and rearing areas.
- The scope was adjusted to respond to Hal Beecher's request to fill data gap, gather full width transect data, and measure at least three flow regimes.
- Appreciation was expressed for 1) quality of the study scope and flow results, 2) being able to tie in with Avista's work to help meet needs and stay within budget, and 3) ability to get diverse flow regime data this fall due to Avista's manipulation of the flows.

**Review Comments from June 30 and July 1, 2003 Public Meetings:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray passed out summaries of the comments received at the public meetings. Reanette, Stan and Sarah provided an overview of what was accomplished and heard at the meetings. Planning Unit members that attended the meetings also provided perspectives to the group. The following identified perspectives were discussed.

Northside Meeting:

- Many meeting participants expressed interest in protecting water availability for current residents, protecting the environment, and limiting future growth that may impact their lifestyle.
- Concern was raised that the plan will allow lots of people to move into the Little Spokane River basin and use up all "our" water. Stan Miller explained that an issue that relates to this concern is that trailer courts can only provide 500 cubic feet of water, so many trailer court residents are installing domestic exempt wells to irrigate. This issue can be addressed in the recommendation section of the plan.

Valley Meeting:

- The meeting was not as well attended as the Northside meeting and meeting participants expressed more interest in regional water issues and challenges.

**Watershed Plan Issues Selection and Work Group Organization:** Stan Miller explained that he has been discussing the end date for Plan development with the Department of Ecology and that he is hopeful that it will be June 2004 (if not it will be set for March 2004). Stan then passed out a handout with three examples of issues that could be included in the Plan and a possible format for presenting the issue, background on the issue, recommendations, and technical support needs. Stan suggested that work groups be formed to work on different issues and develop proposed recommendations to present back to the Planning Unit for consideration. This process, which is consistent with other Planning Unit efforts, was agreed to.

Sarah Hubbard-Gray then facilitated a discussion to identify issues, group the issues, and form work groups to start working on the first set of issues. The following summarizes the results of the discussion:

Instream Flow Work Group issues to review:

- Little Spokane River Instream Flow
- Middle Spokane River Instream Flow
- Sediment problems in Little Spokane River
- Water quality as it relates to flow (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen)

Domestic Exempt Wells / Water Rights Work Group issues to review:

- Little Spokane Watershed exempt wells
- Middle Spokane Watershed exempt wells
- How to deal with potential water use conflicts

Water Conservation, Reuse, and Reclamation Work Group issues to review:

- Conservation, reclamation, and re-use
- Public education role and opportunities

Additional issues for future work groups to review:

- Interrelationship of Planning Unit recommendations to local comprehensive plans
- Recreation and boating
- Water balance and beneficial uses (need to use data to evaluate)
- Meeting future water needs for growth and development
- Opportunities for flow augmentation and storage
- Who will be responsible for plan implementation
- What are the priorities for water use
- Impacts of wastewater treatment discharges
- Communication and coordination with Idaho water resources
- Management and operation of hydro power facilities

Suggestions for work groups reviewing the issues:

- Identify what is known about the issue at the onset.
- Develop objectives for each issue to help guide recommendation development.

Stan Miller passed out sign up sheets for the three work groups that were formed and indicated that he would set up meetings for each work group prior to the next Planning Unit meeting.

**Other Announcements:** Doug Allen reminded the group that the Level I Assessment needs to be finalized. No other announcements were provided.

**Wrap Up:** The next Planning Unit meeting was set for October 22, 2003 at 10:00 am at the Spokane County Conservation District – one week later than usual to give the work groups time to meet.