

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan April 1, 2004

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>	Stan Miller, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality Advisory Committee</i>	Bill Gilmour, <i>Spokane County</i>
	Scott Kuhta, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>	

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

Guests that attended the meeting were: none.

Introductions : Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah explained that this is a follow up meeting to the March 24th meeting to try and get through more of the plan issues and recommendations.

Review of Middle Spokane Instream Flow Issues and Recommendations : The Middle Spokane Instream Flow issues and recommendations were reviewed and discussed and the following decision was made:

Issue

II.A.01 Does the information on rainbow trout from the Hardin Davis Instream Flow and Habitat Study establish the basis for setting instream flows on the Middle Spokane River? (Work Group 12/4/03; Approved 4/1/04)

Recommendations

II.A.01.a Establish a target flow for the Spokane River near Post Falls (USGS Gage 12419000) that provides weighted usable area for juvenile rainbow trout rearing at the Barker Road transect. (Staff 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

II.A.01.b Avista's 2007 operating license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Development should require minimum release at the Post Falls HED to provide habitat for juvenile and adult rainbow trout in the Post Falls reach, using the at the Barker Road study site as the indicator site. (Staff 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/01/04)

~~II.A.01.c Flows included in recommendation II.A.01.a should be met by Lake Coeur d'Alene drawdown of up to one foot if necessary. (Staff 2/27/04)~~

- PU deleted this recommendation.

II.A.01.d Flow in the Middle Spokane River should be managed to optimize spring spawning, incubation, and emergence for rainbow trout. A protocol should be established between the WDFW, IDF&G, and Avista to accomplish this task. Specific flow levels would be established each year and

based on snow pack and expected runoff conditions. (Staff 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

~~II.A.01.e Avista, WDF&W and IDF&G should establish a policy for managing flow at the Spokane River near Post Falls (USGS Gage 12419000) to maintain flows during incubation (May through mid June) as function of the flow that occurs during spawning (April through early May). (Staff 2/27/04)~~

- PU deleted this recommendation.

Issue

II.A.02 Would using Post Falls gage provide better protection for aquatic biota in the Middle Spokane basin than using the Spokane at Spokane gage (USGS Gage 12422500)? (Staff 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

Recommendations

~~II.A.02.a The flow regime in critical habitat areas for aquatic biota identified in the Middle Spokane River are more closely related to flow at the Post Falls gage than at the Spokane gage. However, correlations between the flows at Post Falls and Spokane are such that the Spokane gage could be used in lieu of Post Falls. (Staff, 3/26/04)~~

- PU deleted this recommendation.

II.A.02.b The flow regime in critical habitat areas for aquatic biota identified in the Middle Spokane River are more closely related to flow at the Post Falls gage than at the Spokane gage. To improve flow management in the Middle Spokane, take steps to upgrade the Post Falls gage to a “real time” gage. (Staff, 3/26/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

~~II.A.02.c Instream flow for the Lower Spokane River should be managed using USGS Gage 12422500, the Spokane River at Spokane. (Staff, 2/27/04)~~

- PU combined this with II.A.02.d

II.A.02.d Instream flow for the Lower Spokane River could be managed using USGS Gage 12422500, the Spokane River at Spokane. Conduct fish habitat studies focusing on juvenile and adult rearing on at least 3 sites in the Lower Spokane River between River Mile 56 and 72. This work could be conducted as part of the WRIA 54, Lower Spokane River Watershed Plan and/or as an Avista relicensing PM&E. (Staff, 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

Policy

II.B Manage flows for the Middle Spokane River to provide for aesthetic and recreational use. (Staff, 3/26/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

Issue

II.B.01 What flow provides an aesthetic experience in the “north channel” of the Spokane River in Riverfront Park? (Staff, 3/26/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

Recommendations

II.B.01.a Use the Avista Recreation and Aesthetics Work Group findings as the basis for aesthetic flows in Riverfront Park. (Staff, 3/26/04; *Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04*)

II.B.01.b Identify constraints to providing 300 to 500 cfs in the “north channel” during low flow conditions, as identified by the Avista Recreation and Aesthetics Work Group. (Staff, 3/26/04; *Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04*)

Issue

II.B.02 What flow conditions are needed to provide recreation experiences on the Middle Spokane River during the low flow period? (Staff, 3/26/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04)

During the discussion of issues and recommendations, it was suggested that:

- Need a new policy directing how to use information and consider different factors when developing an instream flow recommendation.

Wrap Up: Everyone was reminded that the next Planning Unit meeting is April 21, 2004 at 9:00 am at the Spokane County Conservation District.