

## Meeting Summary Planning Unit

### Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan May 13, 2004

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

Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>	Bruce Howard, <i>Avista</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality Advisory Committee</i>	Mary Wren, <i>City of Liberty Lake</i>
Harry McLean, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Scott Kuhta, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</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 9:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah asked for comments or corrections to the April 21, 2004 meeting summaries. Reanette indicated that the conclusion in the Model Scenario #3 handout that was passed out at the last meeting, and re-capped in the meeting summary, was not accurate. Reanette passed out the revised Scenario #3 conclusion. Rob Lindsay reminded everyone how much work needs to be done to get a first Draft Watershed Plan completed by the end of June 2004.

**Update on Modeling Scenarios:** Reanette passed out a handout that describes some of the preliminary results of modeling scenario #1, 20 Year Growth Conditions, that is being run. The scenario looks at the affects of population growth through expansion of municipal water use (e.g., impacts to the river, and changes in ground water elevation). The modeling results indicate a reduction in 1) Spokane River flow at the Spokane gage of 25 cfs in the winter and 50 cfs in the summer, and 2) Little Spokane River flow at Dartford of 14 cfs in the winter and 20 cfs in the summer. However, the flow does not change much below Dartford due to aquifer recharge. Ground water also showed some change in elevation. In Spokane Valley the ground water elevation dropped between a few inches to 1 foot in the summer, but recovered during the winter. There was minimal drop in ground water elevation in the Little Spokane basin, which did not recover in the winter.

**Review of Strategies for Base Flow Augmentation Policies, Issues and Recommendations:** The Planning Unit began discussing the Strategies for Base Flow Augmentation policies, issues and recommendations at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the following decisions were made:

#### Policy

VI.A. *Support water resources management approaches that augment water supply in the Little Spokane River basin during the summer water high water use period. (Approved 5/13/04)*

## **Issue**

VI.A.01. *In the Little Spokane River basin high summer water use coincides with the period of normal low flow. What land management methods can be employed to slow the release of winter snowmelt and runoff into streams thus augmenting summer flow? (Public Workshop 7/1/03 – Staff; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)*

- PU comments: Still need to evaluate if the issue question relates well enough to the recommendations.

## **Recommendations**

VI.A.01 a. Support the restoration of wetlands in areas where these features existed historically but have been drained. (Public Workshop 7/1/03; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU comments: Need to rewrite to clarify that it relates to non-developed areas and/or add where feasible or practicable.*

VI.A.01 b. Encourage the creation of new wetlands in upland areas and along stream corridors. (Public Workshop 7/1/03; Approved 5/13/04)

VI.A.01 c. Support forest harvest practices that preserve vegetative ground cover to enhance moisture infiltration. (Public Workshop 7/1/03; Approved 5/13/04)

~~VI.A.01 d. Use restored wetlands to enhance infiltration into shallow aquifers to increase the amount of groundwater available for use by existing wells and to increase availability of recharge for streamflow. (Staff)~~

- *PU Comment: Delete this recommendation, but consider including the information in the background section.*

New Recommendations added by PU at 5/13/04 meeting:

VI.A.01.d. Discourage the elimination of and encourage the expansion of existing wetlands in the Little Spokane watershed. (Approved 5/13/04)

VI.A.01.e. Encourage agricultural practices that reduce runoff and increase infiltration. (Approved 5/13/04)

## **Issue**

VI.A.02. *What types surface water storage can be employed to slow the release of winter snowmelt and runoff into streams in the Little Spokane River basin to augment summer flow? (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04)*

- PU Comment: Combine with Issue VI.A.03 and change context so it relates to watershed, not just surface or ground water, and is simplified. Then include recommendations under both issues under the new combined issue. PU initially approved new combined issue on 5-13-04.

## **Recommendations**

VI.A.02.a. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of surface runoff storage in existing lakes as means of augmenting base flow in the Little Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

VI.A.02.b. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of surface runoff storage in new artificial lakes or ponds as means of augmenting base flow in the Little Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

## **Issue**

VI.A.03. *What types of groundwater storage can be employed in the Little Spokane River basin to augment summer flow? (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04)*

- *PU Comment: Combine with Issue VI.A.02 and change context so it relates to watershed, not just surface or ground water, and is simplified. Then include recommendations under both issues under the new combined issue. PU initially approved new combined issue on 5-13-04.*

## **Recommendations**

VI.A.03.a. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of artificial storage in aquifers as means of augmenting base flow in the Little Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Evaluate if another term can/should be used for artificial storage, or define artificial storage.*

## **Policy**

VI.B. *Support water resources management approaches that augment water supply in the Middle Spokane River basin during the summer water high water use period. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)*

## **Issue**

VI.B.01. *What types surface water storage can be employed to slow the release of winter snowmelt and runoff into streams in the Middle Spokane River basin to augment summer flow? (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04)*

- *PU Comment: Combine with Issue VI.B.02 and change context so it relates to watershed, not just surface or ground water, and is simplified. Then include recommendations under both issues under the new combined issue. PU initially approved new combined issue on 5-13-04.*

## **Recommendations**

VI.B.01.a. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of surface runoff storage in existing lakes as means of augmenting base flow in the Middle Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

VI.B.01.b. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of surface runoff storage in new artificial lakes or ponds as means of augmenting base flow in the Middle Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Define 'artificial' or use 'new reservoirs/ponds'.*

### **Issue**

VI.B.02. *What types of groundwater storage can be employed in the Middle Spokane River basin to augment summer flow? (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04)*

- *PU Comment: Combine with Issue VI.B.01 and change context so it relates to watershed, not just surface or ground water, and is simplified. Then include recommendations under both issues under the new combined issue. PU initially approved new combined issue on 5-13-04.*

### **Recommendations**

VI.B.02.a. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of artificial storage in aquifers as means of augmenting base flow in the Middle Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

VI.B.02.c. Conduct site identification and feasibility analysis for use of artificial storage in aquifers for recovery as a water supply source in the Middle Spokane Watershed. (Staff, Multi-Use Storage WG, 3/16/04; Approved 5/13/04)

### **Technical Support Needs**

Mike Model runs may be a valid way of supporting incorporating the above recommendations on sub basins to determine the magnitude of the impact of implementing the practices described.

- *PU Comment: This section should also reference implementation section of plan. Reworded and approved at 5/13/04 meeting.*

### **Review of Strategies for Ground Water Recharge Enhancement Policies, Issues and**

**Recommendations:** The Planning Unit began discussing the Strategies for Ground Water Recharge Enhancement policies, issues and recommendations at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the following decisions were made:

#### **Policy**

VII.A. *Support stormwater management approaches that foster the maintenance or enhancement of natural groundwater recharge rates due to direct precipitation. (Staff; Approved 5/13/04)*

#### **Issue**

VII.A.01. *How can stormwater runoff generated by development be used to enhance recharge? (Staff; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)*

#### **Recommendations**

VII.A.01.a Support regulations that favor treatment and infiltration of stormwater as an alternative to collection treatment and discharge to surface water. (Staff; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)

VII.A.01 b. Promote diversion of stormwater from low permeability areas to areas with permeability conducive to infiltration. (Staff; Approved 5/13/04)

VII.A.01 c. Support infiltration of stormwater through natural sumps into shallow aquifers. (Staff; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)

### **Policy**

*VII.B. Support the use of reclaimed /reused water for aquifer storage and recovery practices to provide mitigation for municipal water supply pumping and to support Spokane River base flow. (Work Group, 12/04/03; Approved 5/13/04)*

- *PU Comment: Rewrite the policy so it includes “taking wellhead protection areas into account”.*

### **Issue**

*VII.B.01. To what extent can reclaimed wastewater be used for aquifer recharge to support water supply and/or river base flow needs? (Work Group, 12/04/03; Approved 5/13/04)*

### **Recommendations**

VII.B.01a Upon completion of reclaimed water use acceptability evaluations (I.A.01) perform recharge site investigations, preliminary design studies and feasibility studies for a reclaimed water recharge program. (Work Group, 12/04/03; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Change this to recommendation VII.B.01.b, and rewrite to add “that includes wellhead impact evaluations”.*

VII.B.01b If aquifer storage of reclaimed water is politically acceptable and economically feasible, support aquifer storage program for reclaimed water. (Work Group, 12/04/03; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Change this to recommendation VII.B.01.c.*

VII.B.01c Support use of reclaimed water from municipal wastewater treatment facilities for aquifer recharge. (Work Group, 12/04/03; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Change this to recommendation VII.B.01.a, and include definition of reclaimed water in background section.*

### **Policy**

*VII.C. Support the practice of groundwater recharge using Spokane River water diversions during high flow periods to provide mitigation for municipal water supply pumping and to support Spokane River base flow. (Work Group 1/19/04; Approved 5/13/04)*

- *PU Comment: Rewrite to include “taking wellhead protection areas into account”.*

### **Issue**

*VII.C.01. To what extent can Spokane River diversions support Spokane River base flow needs during seasonal low flow periods? (Work Group 1/19/04; Approved 5/13/04)*

## **Recommendations**

VII.C.01a. Apply for supplemental funding under multi-use storage to investigate the technical feasibility of increasing summer river flow using artificial recharge. (Work Group 1/19/04; Approved 5/13/04)

VII.C.01.b Identify gaining reaches of the Spokane River where summer base flow augmentation might occur and potential infiltration areas that could be used to benefit gaining reaches. (Work Group 1/19/04 & 2/13/04; Approved 5/13/04)

- *PU Comment: Rewrite so it is more clear and succinct.*

VII.C.01.c Incorporate findings of this evaluation into the Implementation Phase for WRIA 55 & 57 watershed planning and include specific recommendations in the first Plan Update. (Work Group 2/13/04; Approved 5/13/04)

VII.C.01.d During the Implementation Phase support development of criteria in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Ecology under which mitigation credit will be determined. (Work Group 2/13/04; Reworded and Approved 5/13/04)

Note: The rest of the issues and recommendations in this section were not discussed at the 5/13/04 meeting due to time constraints. They will be discussed at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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

- The concept of where feasible and/or practicable should be included into all recommendations, perhaps in an introductory section.
- Evaluate if should include a new issue under VI.B to address land management.
- Consider using the following sentence, which was taken out of VII.A.01 c, in the background section: Excess recharge may increase the amount of groundwater available for use by existing wells or to increase availability of recharge for streamflow.

**Other Items and Announcements:** The need to further discuss and decide on direction relating to the Little Spokane Instream Flow was brought up. It was decided that the Instream Flow Work Group should meet before the next Planning Unit meeting to come up with a recommendation(s). This meeting was set for May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. County staff will send out an email notice to invite anyone interested in participating, and to let folks know where the meeting will be.

**Wrap Up:** Rob Lindsay indicated that Spokane County staff hopes to have a complete set of plan sections, representing decisions made to date, available to pass out at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The goal is to be able to review the complete document at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and make final decisions regarding what will go into the first Draft Watershed Plan. Due to the amount of work that needs to be done in order to get the first Draft Watershed Plan completed by the end of June 2004, it was suggested and agreed that the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be an all day meeting. Depending on how much is accomplished on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting may also be extended to an all day meeting. The next two meetings will be held:

June 2, 2004 (Wednesday), from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, with an hour lunch break  
June 23, 2004 (Wednesday), from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Both of these meetings will be held at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.