

## Meeting Summary Planning Unit

### Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan June 29, 2004

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

Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of the Little Spokane Valley</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Harry McLean Jr., <i>City of Spokane Water</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality Advisory Committee</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands Council</i>	
Julia McHugh, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>		

**Consultants that attended the meeting were:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray of Hubbard Gray Consulting.

**Guests that attended the meeting were:** Amber Waldref of the Lands Council, Dale Gill, Pamela McKinzie, and Mark Noid.

**Introductions:** Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah asked for comments or corrections to the June 2, 2004 and June 9, 2004 meeting summaries. No comments were provided.

**Update on Technical Work Elements:** Reanette Boese provided an update on the inchoate water rights scenario model run done by Golder. She passed out a handout developed by Golder on the results of this model run and presented information on the results, including a variety of graphs and charts that depicted the results. The model run utilized 91% of all perfected and inchoate municipal water rights, and showed that groundwater elevation changes were not significant in most areas (approximately 2"), but changed more in some wells (between 2' and 4' averages) during the summer. The flow in the Spokane River at the Spokane gage was reduced an average of 150 cfs and the flow in the Little Spokane River near Dartford was reduced an average of 18 cfs. The Planning Unit members asked a variety of questions and had a variety of comments, including:

- Did the model look at the relationship between lowering of the aquifer levels and Spokane River flow? Reanette indicated that it did and that it is captured in the summary.
- Some of the water purveyors indicated that they do not feel that the model results are accurate since they do not consider the reality of operations. When reviewing and considering the model results you need to consider how pumping occurs and what the limitations of pumping are. In addition, the information needs to be explained so it is understandable to the public.

Rob Lindsay provided an update on the storage assessment. He asked Planning Unit members to get him any comments on the June 9<sup>th</sup> handout that was passed out and explained that Golder will have data to review and will be looking for Planning Unit feedback on their mid-project findings. Lloyd Brewer indicated that the City of Spokane would not be in favor of any storage options that could impact City wells, and that wellhead protection areas need to be taken into account. Rob indicated that Golder will look at wellhead capture zones as they are considering reclamation and reuse options as part of the storage assessment.

**Continue Discussion of Issues and Recommendations:** The issues and recommendations included in Watershed Plan Chapter 4 Recommended Actions (June 17, 2004 Draft) that was included in the meeting notice packet were discussed. All items that had previously been initially approved were reviewed and confirmed. In some cases the items were re-worded prior to confirmation. In addition, a couple items that had previously been confirmed were revisited and in some cases re-worded slightly. The following issues and recommendations include the ones that were re-worded at the meeting:

II.A.01.a Establish a late summer target flow for the Spokane River near Post Falls (USGS Gage 12419000) that provides wetted useable area for adult rainbow trout at the Barker Road transect at 700 cfs. (Staff 2/27/04; Re-worded and Approved 4/1/04; confirmed 4/21/04; re-worded and confirmed 6-29-04)

III.B.02.a. The Department of Ecology should enforce the minimum instream flow shutoff on irrigation from exempt wells (junior to the establishment of WAC 173-555 minimum instream flow) in the Little Spokane Watershed where it does not cause additional fire danger. (Workgroup 5/26/2004, approved 6/2/2004; confirmed for inclusion in the first draft Watershed Plan, but still being evaluated and considered by the Watershed Planning Unit for inclusion in the Plan - June 6/29/04)

VII.C.03.a. Perform a MIKE Model evaluation of the net effect on the aquifer; resulting from changes to Post Falls HED operations, during summer low flow operations. (Work Group 1/19/04, approved 6/2/04: re-worded and confirmed 6-29-04)

During the discussion of issues and recommendations, the following questions were raised and requests made:

- How does that Planning Unit position itself to ‘negotiate’ with Avista regarding Middle Spokane River Instream Flow value?
- Planning Unit will re-evaluate the Middle Spokane River instream flow value for the next draft of the Watershed Plan since additional information should be available at that time.
- Planning Unit will revisit the wording in recommendation IV.A.01.d for the next draft of the Watershed Plan.
- ‘Municipal reserves’ needs to be defined in the background of section V.
- Recommendation X.D.01.a should be re-worded into an active voice.

During the meeting, Sarah Hubbard-Gray asked the guests if they had comments or questions they would like to share with the Planning Unit. The following comments were provided:

- Does the Watershed Plan address water quality issues and recommendations? There needs to be further water quality testing to determine impacts. Responses: Reanette explained that only water quality issues relating to flow are being addressed in this plan. Lloyd Brewer explained that during implementation there needs to be an evaluation of how different plans (including other water quality plans) relate to each other.

**Wrap Up:** The next meetings will be held July 21, 2004 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room. This meeting had to be scheduled in the afternoon since the WRIA 54 meeting is being held in the morning on the same day.