

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan August 18, 2004

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of the Little Spokane Valley</i>
Harry McLean Jr., <i>City of Spokane Water</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	David Jensen, <i>Pen Oreille County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Brian Farmer, <i>Washington Department of Ecology</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County Conservation District</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Megan Harding, <i>Department of Health</i>		

Consultants that attended the meeting were: Sarah Hubbard-Gray of Hubbard Gray Consulting and Chris Pitre 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 July 21, 2004 meeting summary. No comments were provided.

Update on Plan Elements: Rob Lindsay explained that the draft watershed plan, which will include the Planning Unit recommended actions, will be compiled and available for review and comment on or about September 1, 2004. There will be a thirty day review and comment opportunity for this draft and two public meetings will be held on September 14 and 15, 2004. The concept for the public meetings was discussed and the Planning Unit agreed that the meetings should provide an overview of the planning process, the technical and instream flow assessments, and the recommended actions. And, that at the public meetings, participants will be asked to provide input on the recommended actions that they feel are high priority so the Planning Unit can consider this input as they prioritize the recommended actions this fall.

Update on Storage Assessment: Chris Pitre of Golder Associates gave a presentation on the additional assessment of storage options discussed at the July Planning Unit meeting. He reviewed the background and purpose of the assessment, explained how this the assessment is phased, and explained that the intent is to have the Planning Unit select 2 or 3 options to be more fully assessed. This final assessment stage should provide enough information about each of the final 2 or 3 options to be able to evaluate the economic and political feasibility of the option and provide enough information to assist in securing implementation funding.

Chris provided information on the ten options that Golder continued to assess since the July 2004 Planning Unit meeting. They included:

- WRIA 55:
 - Ponderosa Lake dam
 - wetlands restoration in the upper watershed
 - Artificial recharge of Deer Park Aquifer

- Stormwater to gravel pit infiltration
- Dragoon Lake dam raise
- WRIA 55/57:
 - Artificial groundwater storage with SVRP as source and Little Spokane Aquifer as receiving aquifer
 - Direct augmentation (“Pump and Dump”) of the Little Spokane River with groundwater pumped from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer
- WRIA 57:
 - Reclaimed water use
 - Newman Lake wetlands restoration
 - Saltese Flats wetlands restoration

The Planning Unit discussed the options and decided on the following three options for further assessment:

- Ponderosa Lake dam raise (to start with the property owner will be contacted to identify their interest in collaborating on this project, if they are not interested Golder will evaluate the wetlands restoration in the upper watershed option instead of the Ponderosa Lake dam raise option).
- Golder will combine the WRIA 55/57 options into one new option for further evaluation involving aquifer storage and recovery near Deadman Creek and Little Spokane River.
- Golder will combine the reclaimed water use and Saltese Flats wetlands restoration into one new option for further evaluation.

Implementation Matrix: Sarah Hubbard-Gray then explained that the charts on the walls were a replica of the implementation matrix that had been sent to the Planning Unit members. Sarah then asked each Planning Unit representative to use markers and write their agency/organization name next to each recommended action that they see themselves participating in, and to indicate if they are interested in participating in a lead role. It was explained that this information would provide an initial indication of interest and would be compiled into a draft matrix that will be discussed at the next Planning Unit meeting, when there will be more discussion of the roles of each agency/organization, the level of effort, and the priority. The meeting participants then spent time writing on the wall charts.

Other Items of Public or Committee Concern and Announcements: Brian Farmer explained that the Department of Ecology is in the process of interviewing for watershed leads and that they should know soon who will be the new representative for the WRIA 55/57 watershed plan.

Wrap Up: The next meeting will be held September 15, 2004 from 9:00 am to noon, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.