

Meeting Summary
Planning Unit
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
September 29, 2004

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Conservation District</i>
<i>Board</i>	Amber Waldref, <i>The Lands</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth</i>
Brian Farmer, <i>Washington</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Water</i>
<i>Department of Ecology</i>	Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of the</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
	<i>Little Spokane Valley</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>

Guests that attended the meeting were: Dale Smith, Dale Gill, Paul Word, Robert Woodward, Greg Sweeney

Introductions: Reanette Boese called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Committee members and visitors introduced themselves. Reanette asked for comments or corrections to the September 15, 2004 meeting summary. The “wetlands categorization” should be changed to “wetlands ranking”.

Update on Instream Flow for the Middle Spokane River: Rob Lindsay reported that Hal Beecher of WDFW and Tim Hardin of Hardin-Davis will attend the October 20th meeting to explain the findings from the instream flow work. Brian Farmer will send updated Avista Fisheries group instream flow proposal to Spokane County for distribution to the Planning Unit members. The conclusion from the last meeting that the Watershed Plan Middle Spokane Instream Flow Needs recommendation does not need to be the same as Avista’s since the Watershed Plan looks at both the aquifer and the river (but that it would be nice if they were compatible) was reiterated. The recommendation in the “aquatic biota” section should be about aquatic biota only and a flow regime based on all the different uses will be worked out later.

Questions that the Planning Unit would like to have answered about Instream Flows:

How was the original 700 cfs at Barker justified and why the changes in the recommendation by the fish agencies?

What water temperatures do the fish need?

How much water does the river lose between Post Falls and Barker?

What are the impacts of the suggested river flows on the aquifer?

How are the suggested flows different from natural conditions?

How much flow is needed to accommodate the current point source dischargers?

Update on Storage Assessment: Brian Farmer said the wetland ranking of Saltese Flats should be done by the end of the week. Walt Edelen stated that previous efforts to work with landowners in the Saltese Flats area have been unsuccessful. Reanette asked for any historical pictures of Saltese Flats when it was flooded. Lloyd noted that the Avista relicensing plenary group had identified flows for fish, recreation, aesthetics, and water quality as the primary uses of the Spokane River. Lloyd asked that group to add withdrawing water from the river for aquifer recharge as an additional use.

Update on September 14 and 15, 2004 Public Meetings: Reanette pointed out the copies of summaries from both public meetings. She asked the Planning Unit members and others who were at the meetings to

check them over. Spokane County will compile the comments from the meetings and others received to present to the next planning unit meeting on October 20th.

Implementation Matrix: Reanette handed out a revised matrix definitions list defining Level of Involvement, Level of Effort, Type of Action, and Timing (priority). There was much discussion about the specificity of the definitions and the need to populate the implementation matrix with our initial thinking in a timely manner (before the end of the year). It was decided to create a matrix with simplified column headings. The new columns will be “identified potential implementers”, “priority/timing” with levels of 0 to 3, and “agency level of effort” with levels A to D. Spokane County will email the simplified matrix to the planning unit member agencies / organizations. The deadline for return of the matrices will be October 20, 2004 – the next meeting.

Wrap Up: The next meeting will be held October 20, 2004 from 9:00 am to noon at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room to discuss the instream flow on the Middle Spokane River and to look at comments on the watershed plan for possible inclusion in the plan and comments. Another meeting will be held October 26, 2004 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room to work on the implementation matrix.