

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
October 20, 2004

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Brian Farmer & Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth</i> <i>Water</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i> <i>Department of Ecology</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of</i> <i>Spokane</i>	Dave Jensen, <i>Pend Oreille</i> <i>County Planning</i>	Shallan Dawson & Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer</i> <i>Joint Board</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i> <i>Advisory Committee</i>	Reanette Boese, Rob
Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of</i> <i>the Little Spokane Valley</i>	Jane Cunningham & Amber Waldref, <i>The Lands</i> <i>Council</i>	Lindsay, Lisa Dingler & Bruce Rawls, <i>Spokane</i> <i>County</i>

Consultants that attended the meeting were: Stan Miller, Tim Hardin

Guests that attended the meeting were: Hal Beecher, *Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*, Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Association*

Introductions: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Reanette informed the Committee that Sarah Hubbard-Gray has moved to Kirkland and will be unable to facilitate the meetings. Committee members introduced themselves. Reanette requested comments or corrections to the prior meeting summary. None were provided.

Update on Technical Work Elements: Rob Lindsay informed the Committee that Golder Associates cancelled the planned presentation of their final report of the Multi-Purpose Storage Assessment. Talking point information was provided by Golder and read aloud by Reanette.

The information covered the three storage options:

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery in the Little Spokane River Basin.
- New dam potential with Buck Creek and Beaver Creek as potential sites.
- Saltese Flats restoration.

The Committee should have the final report the first week in November.

Continue Discussion of Issues and Recommendations: Clarification of the work that went into the development of the instream flow recommendations was requested at the last meeting. Rob passed out copies of the June 4th instream flow report. Tim Hardin presented slides for informational purposes of the assessment of the Sullivan Reach and more specifically the stretch from Barker Road through Planters Ferry. The presentation included an effort at integration of temperature with physical habitat using Fish and Wildlife guidelines and then assumptions associated with higher temperatures/flows. Generally, the amount of usable habitat goes down with increasing flow due to higher temperatures. **The steepness of the decline, and the flow at which it starts back up again, depends on:**

- 1) the temperature criteria used, and
- 2) the length of stream you choose to represent with the Barker transect.

Some people asked whether there are many fish in the Spokane River in the Barker area. Hal Beecher said there are a fair number, though there used to be more. Population estimates are full of assumptions and can't give good information, especially for resident (non-migrating) populations.

There was some discussion of the changes to the flow recommendations to Avista from the Fisheries Agencies. For now it appears that the recommendation of a 600 cfs minimum release from Post Falls will not change. There may still be changes to the definition of a "drought year" when the release could be lowered to 500 cfs.

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

- 300 cfs out of Post Falls is not acceptable.
- There are concerns that Planning Unit recommendations are not consistent with the Avista Fisheries Workgroup recommendations.
- "No minimum instream flow" is not acceptable.
- Adaptive management by Avista may need to be part of recommendations.
- Set a recommended flow at Barker Road and then a minimum flow at Post Falls.
- Our recommendations need to include some sort of adaptive management.

The following recommendations were made:

- Change the recommendation II.A.01.a to 500 cfs at Barker Road.
- Change recommendation II.A.01.b. to support of a minimum flow of 600 cfs at Post Falls Dam.
- Add something about water quality to recommendation II.E.01.a.

Wrap Up: The next meeting will be held October 26, 2004 (Tuesday), from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.