

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 Lower Spokane River
October 27, 2004

Attendees recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Doris Deitrich, Landowner	Merrill Ott, Stevens County Commissioner
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	Jason McLellan, WDFW
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe	Bill Gilmour, Spokane County
Bea Lackaff, Spokane Citizen	Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County
Keith Holliday, WDOE	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Sandy Dotts, WDFW	Mark Curtis, Stevens County Conservation District
John Gibson, Fairchild AFB	Shallan Dawson, Spokane County Conservation District
Britany Stasney, Golder Associates	

Meeting began 10:00 am

Bill Gilmour opened the meeting at 10:04 am. On behalf of Spokane County, Bill thanked the initiating agencies, the implementing governments and everyone in attendance for their support of this project. Several new people were in attendance and so there were around the room introductions by each attendee.

The draft meeting summary for the August 25, 2004 WRIA 54 meeting was distributed and reviewed. A one-word change was made by Sandy Dotts regarding the “importance” of the Coulee and Deep Creek fisheries. Merrill Ott motioned to accept the September 22, 2004 meeting summary without any other changes and Jim DeGraffenreid seconded.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Update

Bill gave a brief MOA update and then asked Lloyd if he had anything to add. Lloyd stated that the City of Spokane (City), the Spokane Tribe (Tribe) and Stevens County PUD#1 agreed on the final MOA wording with some back-and-forth. Bill added that the MOA provided in the meeting package had a few additional changes, shown with an underline, that were made by the Spokane County legal department. No other comments were received over the past week, which means that as long as the comments made by the Spokane County legal department are accepted, the MOA is now ready for signature. Bill stated he would send out the final MOA soon so that the Initiating Agencies can obtain the required signatures.

Scope of Work

Bill gave a brief presentation on the schedule of the Phase II application submittal and the schedules for the two supplemental grant application submittal. Various people made a handful of editorial comments and then Bill stated that it appeared the Phase II Scope of Work was finalized. The Ecology Phase II grant application may be ready for Planning Unit review by the next meeting.

Discussion of Public Meetings

Bill gave an update on the status of the public meetings to seek public input on the potential list of Planning Unit members and the Phase II Scope of Work. It was motioned by Bea Lackaff to have one public meeting at the Airway Heights Community Center and the other at the Suncrest Middle School. Jim DeGraffenreid seconded the motion. Bill said he would try to schedule Airway Heights on December 7, 2004 and Suncrest on December 8, 2004. Merrill Ott came up with a contact name and number for Bill to call in Suncrest. Merrill also commented on the fact that the whole community outreach aspect of the project needed to be approached from a different perspective. He stated that the success of the project is dependant on the degree of public participation.

He continued to say that it may take many more public meetings than just two and the agenda for the public meetings needs to be flexible to accommodate the public's needs. Bill stated that he thought there would be money for more than two public meetings.

Bill handed out a public meeting announcement flyer for the Planning Unit to review. Comments on the flyer need to be returned to Bill by the end of the day November 2, 2004.

Public Comment

There was no public comment. There was a ten (10) minute break so that Jason McLellan from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife could set up the projector for his presentation.

Presentation by Jason McLellan of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jason McLellan presented fish distribution and density and instream habitat data collected by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on Deep and Coulee Creeks and the lower Spokane River (Monroe street Dam to Nine Mile Falls Dam). He also presented some fish distribution data collected by Eastern Washington University (EWU) on Spring Creek and Tamarack, Mill, and Harker Canyons. Deep, Coulee, and Spring Creeks, Tamarack, Mill, and Harker Canyons, and the lower Spokane River all have resident populations of rainbow trout. Deep Creek also has eastern brook trout. There was limited data available on the streams sampled by EWU for comparisons. The fish population data for Deep and Coulee Creeks was compared to the data for five tributaries of the Little Spokane River that were of similar size (Little Deep, Dragoon, Deer, Deadman, and Dartford Creeks). The data on the Little Spokane River tributaries and Deep and Coulee Creeks were collected by WDFW using a standardized protocol allowing for comparison. The conclusions were that Deep and Coulee Creeks have relatively high densities with high proportions of stock and legal sized trout, compared to the Little Spokane River tributaries. The characteristics of the Deep and Coulee Creek trout populations prompted WDFW regional fish biologists to request that the WRIA 54 Watershed Planning Group consider these streams for minimum instream flow analysis.

Genetic analysis is currently being conducted on the rainbow trout populations in Deep and Coulee Creeks. Results will be provided when complete. There are still data gaps regarding Spring Creek and Tamarack, Mill, and Harker Canyons, which when answered may prompt WDFW biologists to request that one or more of these streams also be considered for minimum instream flow analysis

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Bill will try to schedule the next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting for December 1, 2004 at the City of Airway Heights Community Center in the upstairs courtroom from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.