Meeting Summary
Planning Unit
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
December 15, 2004

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Ty Wick, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board
Dick Price, Stevens County PUD
Susan McGeorge, Whitworth Water Council
Jane Cunningham, The Lands Council
Dave Jones, Water Quality Advisory Committee
Keith Holliday, State Caucus, Department of Ecology
Reanette Boese & Rob Lindsay, Spokane County

Consultants that attended the meeting were:  none

Guests that attended the meeting were:  Linda Kiefer, Stevens County.

Introductions:  Rob called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.  Committee members introduced themselves and Dick Price introduced Linda Kiefer, the Watershed Planning Coordinator for Stevens County.  Reanette requested comments and/or corrections to the November 30 meeting summary.  The summary was approved as written.

Storage Assessment Report:  Most comments about the Storage Report have been sent to Golder.  Whitworth Water District asked that the report make it clear that they did not request Golder to study aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) for their water district.  Golder should describe the process they went through to eliminate all the ASR options except the Whitworth water transfer.

Discussion of the Recommendations:  In light of the storage study, the Planning Unit decided to change several recommendations in Section VI – Strategies for Base Flow Augmentation.  The wording of recommendations VI.A.02.a, VI.A.02.b, VI.A.02.c, VI.B.01.a, VI.B.01.b, VI.B.01.c, and VI.B.01.d was changed from “conduct” to “continue”.  All of these were changed from obligations to recommendations.  Examples of potential sites should be included for recommendations VI.A.01.a and VI.A.02.c.

A conflict of recommendations on domestic exempt wells between the WRIA 59, which has already been approved by the Stevens County Commissioners, and our plan was brought to our attention.  The wording “where detrimental impacts are identified” was added to the end of both Issue IV.A.02 and recommendation IV.A.02.a to diminish the conflict.

Discussion of the Implementation Matrix:  The section that introduces the matrix and the recommendations should include a statement about each watershed having its own issues and therefore recommendations are specific to the watershed.  There will also be an explanation of “recommendation” versus “obligation”.

Response to the Public Comments on the WRIA 55 / 57 Watershed Plan:  Reanette handed out the current Responsiveness Summary and asked Planning Unit members to look it over and return comments.  The first comment was that “potential” should be removed from in front of “response”.

Schedule for the adoption process:  The Planning Unit began a draft timeline for plan approval.
Dec 23, 2004 – Rob and Reanette will get new sections to Planning Unit members.
January 4, 2005 – comments from the Planning Unit members due
January 11 – meeting for final look through of Watershed Plan.
January 18 – Plan goes to members of the City of Spokane Public Works Committee.
Other agencies will also need to review the plan at this time. We must keep track of any changes.
January 24 – City of Spokane Public Works committee
January 31 – City of Spokane City council
All agencies which need to give their Planning Unit member advice on how to vote, need to do so.
February 9 (or 14) – Planning Unit meets to vote on the Plan
The plan is then sent to the counties for public hearings. Each county must hold at least one public hearing.
Linda Kiefer suggested a 10 to 15 minute presentation at the beginning of each public hearing.
The commissioners of all three counties meet in joint session to adopt the plan.

Wrap Up: The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2005 (Tuesday), from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room. This will be after the next draft of the plan is available for comment by the Planning Unit, and before it goes to City of Spokane Public Works committee on January 18.