

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan January 26, 2005

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i>
Scott Kuhta, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water &</i>	<i>Department of Ecology</i>
<i>Valley</i>	<i>Power</i>	Linda Kiefer, <i>Stevens County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i>	Reanette Boese & Rob
<i>Board</i>	<i>Advisory Committee</i>	Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: none.

Introductions: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. Attendees had been reading the newest version of Chapter 3. Committee members introduced themselves.

New Water Rights recommendation: The new recommendation written and approved at the last meeting was read. *Develop strategies to address compliance, enforcement, and validity of water rights and claims within WRIAs 55 and 57.* This will be V.A.01.d. The recommendation was confirmed. The recommendation will be added as an obligation to the implementing body. It will be sent out to all of the implementing agencies for their comments on prioritization and level of effort.

SEPA Review of the Watershed Plan: Rob presented the options for the non-project SEPA needed for the Watershed Plan. One option is to do the SEPA checklist and any resulting EIS on our own. The other options is to adopt the Programmatic Watershed Planning EIS published by the Dept of Ecology, then show how our Watershed Plan fits into that EIS. Linda Kiefer provided the WRIA 59 SEPA chapter and explained their SEPA process. Scott Kuhta provided additional information about non-project SEPA reviews. Susan McGeorge moved that we adopt the Dept of Ecology's programmatic EIS. Steve Skipworth seconded the motion. There were no dissenters. Lloyd is concerned that the dollar amounts assigned to the recommendations will make them look like projects. He also wanted to make sure the language in the SEPA chapter doesn't imply there is no need for further SEPA review or EIS at the time a project is proposed.

Discussion of Chapter 3 of the Watershed Plan: Additional changes were made to Chapter 3 based on the discussion and comments received via email from Jim Marthaller of Pend Oreille County and others.

New Schedule for the adoption process: Lloyd Brewer discussed the options for presenting the Watershed Plan to the City of Spokane. One option is to present the Plan to the Public Works Committee as one of about 7 items in a 1.5 hour meeting. The other option is to present the Plan at a Council Workshop on Thursday March 3 which would change the timeline but allow more time to present the Plan and answer questions. The Planning Unit agreed that the workshop seemed a better option and revised the timeline for plan approval.

February 7 – meet to go over SEPA review and other elements of the plan.

February 11 – Supply final draft of the Plan to the City of Spokane and other groups for review.

Brief County Commissioners and other groups.

March 3 – Present the Plan at a Council Workshop.

March 7 – City of Spokane City council advanced agenda.

March 14 – City of Spokane council final action.

All agencies that need to give their Planning Unit member advice on how to vote need to do so.

March 16 (or 23) – 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.

The commissioners of all three counties meet in joint session to adopt the plan.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at about 1:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2005 (Monday), from 1:30 to 4:30, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.