

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 Lower Spokane River
May 10, 2005

Initiating Agency and Implementing Government members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Julia McHugh, Citizen at Large	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Stan Miller, Spokane County	Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Bill Gilmour, Spokane County	Donna DeFrancesco, Golder Associates Inc.
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe	Keith Holliday, WDOE
Christy Brown, CLB Planning	Bea Lackoff, Citizen at Large
Shallan Dawson, SCCD	Doris Dietrich, Citizen at Large
Reanette Boese, Spokane County	Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County
Schuyler & Tara Johnston, Citizens at Large	Danielle Johnson, Citizen at Large
Brittany Dandson, Citizen at Large	Guy Tillman, Citizen at Large
Joayn Taylor, Citizen at Large	Bob Derkey, Wash. DNR, Guest Speaker

Meeting began 6:09 pm

Rob Lindsay opened the meeting at 6:09 pm. The attendees were each asked to introduce themselves and what interest or organization they represent. Bill Gilmour passed a sign-in sheet around and asked all attendees to please sign-in and provide contact information.

The meeting summary for the March 22, 2005 WRIA 54 meeting was distributed for comment. Rob requested that any comments be submitted now. After a review of each page of the meeting summary and receiving no comments, Rob announced that the March 22, 2005 meeting summary is accepted with no revisions.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Presentation by Bob Derkey

Bob Derkey from the Washington Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation called "Summary Geology of the West Plains". Bob provided a detailed synopsis of the geomorphology, surface geology, depositional history and hydrogeology of the area between the Idaho\Washington Border and Long Lake Dam along the Spokane River. Bob suggested that the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP Aquifer) Aquifer sediments might extend down the Lower Spokane River valley to Long Lake Dam. A larger area in WRIA 54 with the SVRP aquifer sediments could mean more water than expected in WRIA 54. Bob discussed how detailed surface mapping and interpretation can be conducted by the Department of Natural Resources to establish what the geology is relative to flood deposits and the SVRP Aquifer extending into WRIA 54.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Update

Rob Lindsay who gave an update on the WRIA 54 MOA status. Rob said that the MOA has been signed by all Initiating Agencies as of today. Copies of the MOA were distributed to all attendees; certified copies of the MOA were distributed to the initiating agencies present. Rob thanked the Initiating Agencies for their hard work and announced, "As of today, we are an official Planning Unit."

Schedule for Review and Submittal of the Phase II Grant Application to Ecology

Rob requested attendees to look at the Phase II Application available on the back table. The application has several attachments and is for \$200,000. Attachment #4 deserves particular attention because it contains the budget breakdown and the Scope of Work for Phase II. The WRIA 54 Scope of Work Work Group generated the Scope of Work, but did not prepare the budget breakdown and did not previously review it. Rob noted that the WRIA 54 Phase II proposed budget is roughly based on the Phase II budget prepared for the WRIA55/57 process, and that the exact percentages might be adjusted based on the actual consultant fees for Facilitation and preparation of the Data Compilation report. Rob requested the meeting attendees to review the application and attachments and contact Spokane County with any comments by May 25, 2005.

Rob stated that the Washington State fiscal biennium for 2006-2008 starts on July 1, 2005. Based on the limited time left in the current biennium, the WRIA 54 Phase II application and all future applications for optional elements in WRIA 54 will be for grants that will be funded in the upcoming biennium (i.e., funding will be available AFTER July 1, 2005).

Discussion of the Schedule for Submittal of the Optional Element Grant Applications for Instream Flow, and Water Quality and Possibly Multipurpose Storage Assessment.

Rob discussed the Optional Element Applications for Water Quality and Instream Flow. Ecology has recommended that the Planning Unit apply for these optional elements when the Phase II application is filed. Rob indicated that Spokane County is currently preparing the application for these two (2) optional elements. Rob also brought up the optional element for Multipurpose Storage. He indicated that he did not want to initiate a discussion about a Multipurpose Storage Assessment grant application at this time, and Spokane county is not currently preparing that application. He did want everyone to recognize that the Planning Unit should consider it as soon as possible, however.

Rob proposed an accelerated schedule for WRIA 54 Phase II and Phase III work in order to accommodate the extra time needed to get the watershed plan adopted. Rob said he has learned a lot about the adoption process while working with the WRIA 55/57 watershed plan. Rob's intention is to assure that the watershed plan is completed on time and within the budget as established in the MOA and grant contract with Ecology. As such, Rob proposed that the Planning Unit look to having the watershed management plan approved by the Planning Unit within three (3) years of acceptance of Phase II funds, as opposed to the four (4) years currently allowed in the grant. This schedule will allow a full year for adoption by the Counties. Lloyd Brewer brought up the fact that there is already a deadline in the MOA that limits the length of time the agreement is in place. The built-in deadline makes the WRIA 55/57 MOU different than the WRIA 54 MOA.

Bill Gilmour asked Keith about the benefits of submitting optional element grant applications with the Phase II application. Keith pointed out that the longer a Planning Unit waits to submit an optional grant application, the less chance there is for getting funded.

Rob asked Keith if it is possible to get funded for Phase III before submittal of the Phase II completion report. Keith answered that a Planning Unit can start working out what the issues and recommendations while working on Phase II, but funding for Phase III cannot be awarded until the Phase II completion report is submitted and accepted.

The degree of Lead Agency participation in preparing (writing) the watershed plan was asked. Rob stated that Phase III money is for preparation of the watershed plan and that we are currently submitting a grant application for Phase II money. Rob asked the Golder Associates representative, Donna DeFrancesco, how other Planning Units have handled the preparation of their watershed plans. Donna said that it is completely variable. Rob noted that the Phase II application budget might need to be amended once consultants provide estimated budgets to conduct Phase II activities. Stan Miller pointed out that one of the benefits of sending out a Request for Proposal that includes scopes of work for both the Phase II work and an optional element grant is the economy of scale.

Rob next asked Keith what kind of turnaround for the Phase II application can be expected if it is submitted to Ecology two weeks from now? Keith said he would take the application to his group in Spokane for approval, and then send it to Olympia. It will take about a month from the date an application is submitted to the date that a contract is in place with Ecology.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

A discussion followed regarding the time and location of the next meeting. It was agreed in previous meetings that the Planning Unit would attempt to hold the meetings at alternating locations (Airway Heights, Tum Tum) and at different times (i.e., day, evening). Since the last three meetings have been in the evening, and we have had more meetings in the Tum Tum area in the past few months, the next meeting was set for Wednesday June 8, 2005 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, tentatively at the Airways Heights Community Center, based on availability. The location will be researched and an email will be sent out announcing the location as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.