

Meeting Summary
Planning Unit
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
July 6, 2005

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Jim Marthaller, <i>Pend Oreille</i>
Harry McLean, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands</i>	<i>County</i>
Scott Kuhta, <i>City of Spokane</i>	<i>Council</i>	Dean Cummings, <i>Pend</i>
<i>Valley</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i>	<i>Oreille County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint</i>	<i>Department of Ecology</i>	Merrill Ott, <i>Stevens County</i>
<i>Board</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County</i>	Reanette Boese & Rob
	<i>Conservation District</i>	Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: Jeff Storms of Sacheen Lake and Ruth Rasmussen of Eloika Lake.

Introductions: Rob called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary for June 15th was reviewed and approved.

SEPA Review of the Watershed Plan: The SEPA chapter, Chapter 6, is now in the Watershed Plan. The SEPA announcement will be published in the Spokesman Review, the Newport Miner, and the Steven's County paper of record: The Chewelah Independent. We will publish the notice as soon as possible and send the SEPA to people on distribution lists of all three counties.

Discussion and Vote on Approval: Millwood passed a resolution last night to support the plan. Spokane County received several emails and phone calls from members who could not attend but wanted to have their yes vote counted. Those included Steve Skipworth of Vera Water and Power, Mary Wren-Wilson of Liberty Lake, Dick Price of Stevens County PUD, Tom Hargreaves of the Friends of the Little Spokane Valley, and Don Comins of Pend Oreille County Conservation District. Susan McGeorge moved to approve the plan. Ty Wick seconded the motion. The plan was approved by consensus of all present and those who sent in their vote.

Potential Schedule for Adoption Process: The earliest Spokane County can hold a Public Hearing on the plan is August 16. We will try to schedule the hearings in Stevens and Pend Oreille counties near that date. The Pend Oreille hearing should be held before Dean Cummings leaves for vacation in mid August. The public hearings will be held after the SEPA comment period is over so the commissioners can see the comments. Rob will make and distribute a list of all the steps needed and fill in as many dates as possible.

Sacheen Lake Update: Jeff Storms told about the June 18th meeting at Sacheen Lake. About 175 people attended. State Representative Morton and Keith Stoffel of Ecology addressed the group. The state agencies have roles defined by the laws and there is some question of which agency can do what about beaver dams. Rep Morton said that the legislature needs to pass additional laws to help with the beaver problem. The Sacheen Lake group will have a bond measure on the ballot in November (?) to purchase the Silver City property so the group can maintain the tubes through the beaver dams. Unfortunately, beavers have built a new dam downstream of the property and the owners of that property may not be willing to let anyone put and maintain tubes through the beaver dams on their land.

Jim Marthaller spoke with the owner of Trout Lake. Beaver dams are blocking the flow out Trout Lake as well. The owner would be willing to help Sacheen Lake build a sewage treatment plant to keep fecal coliform out of the river flowing into his lake.

Eloika Lake has problems with too little water and lots of weeds. The historic lake level was about 1908 feet msl but is closer to 1903 feet msl now. A natural dam at the end of the lake was blasted out many years ago and never replaced. They have looked into raising the level of the lake with an outlet structure, but people who built close to the water threatened to sue. They've also considered dredging the lake but it would be prohibitively expensive. They would like to have some of Sacheen Lake's extra water.

Wrap Up: Rob handed out a preliminary Phase IV application and asked for comments. There was some discussion of what group would draft the Phase IV scope of work. There will be more discussion of the Phase IV scope of work at the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for August 11, 2005, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.