

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 Lower Spokane River
July 13, 2005

Planning Unit members and guests recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	Stan Miller, Spokane County
Bill Gilmour, Spokane County	Lynn Wells, Lake Spokane Protection Assoc.
Keith Holliday, WDOE	Chris Butler, Spokane Tribe
Susan Dar, Paliades Neighborhood	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County	Bea Lackoff, Citizen at Large
Shallan Dawson, SCCD	Doris Dietrich, Landowner
Hank Nelson, Avista Corp.	Ted Hensold, Landowner
Bart Haggin, The Lands Council	John Koreny, HDR/EES

Meeting began 6:05 pm

Bill Gilmour opened the meeting at 6:05 pm. The attendees were each given the opportunity to introduce themselves and what interest or organization they represent. Bill requested that everyone please sign-in on the attendance sheet.

The meeting summary for the June 8, 2005 WRIA 54 meeting was distributed for review. Rob Lindsay motioned to accept the June 8, 2005 meeting summary and Hank Nelson seconded.

Bill apologized for not sending out a meeting agenda beforehand. Rob Lindsay stated that the future meeting dates, times and locations, and meeting summaries and agendas can be found on the Spokane County web page www.spokanewatershed.org under WRIA 54.

Public Comment

Lloyd Brewer said that there will be a Washington State drought committee meeting on July 27, 2005 in Clayton Washington that people may be interested in attending. The meeting will be held from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Mont Lamm Belgians, 7501 West Enoch in Clayton. Call Lanessa Inman at (360) 407-7100 to confirm your attendance.

WRIA 54 Phase 1 4th Quarter Progress Report, Payment Request and Completion Report

Bill presented the Phase I budget information and reviewed the project status as it relates to obtaining Phase II funding. The WRIA 54 Phase 1 4th Quarter Progress Report, Payment Request and Completion Report represent the final submittal to close-out Phase I. The Phase I final submittal must be approved by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) in order for Phase II to be funded. The final submittal will be available for review this evening and copies will be made available upon request. Bill stated that with the approval of the Planning Unit (PU) he would submit the Phase I final submittal to Ecology. No objections were made.

Update on Phase II Grant Application Status

Bill presented copies of the Phase II Grant Application to the Planning Unit. He said the application was submitted to Ecology on June 29, 2005 and that copies will be made available upon request.

Bill asked Keith Holliday from Ecology how far the Phase II application has made it in the review process. Keith said that due to people out on vacation; scheduling a meeting with the appropriate people at one time in Ecology was impossible. Instead, Keith was approaching each person individually for their approval. He said he has not had any problems relative to approval yet and that he expected to have final approval from the

Spokane Ecology office by July 22, 2005. After obtaining approval in Spokane, Keith will send the application to the Ecology office in Olympia WA for final approval and funding.

Steering Committee and Work Groups

Rob described the visions and functions of the Phase II Steering Committee, Phase II Consultant Selection Work Group and Optional Element Grant Work Group. The Steering Committee is expected to exist for the duration of Phase II and be responsible for holding separate meetings (possibly teleconference) outside of the PU meetings, creating agendas, organizing and scheduling field trip(s) over WRIA 54, arranging meeting presentations, creating annual budgets and budget updates for Planning Unit review, organizing and scheduling public meetings and workshops, and other administrative functions.

Bill presented Spokane County contracting requirements that impact the Phase II Consultant Selection Work Group. He said due to the dollar value of the contract(s), Spokane County Purchasing Department will oversee the advertising and selection process and will do as much of the work as we request. Spokane County will do the contracting and requires that there be at least five people on the selection panel. The Phase II application states the composition of the selection panel must include at a minimum a representative from the Lead Agency, Initiating Agencies, and Planning Unit. Keith Holliday stated he wanted to provide input relative to the selection of the consultant(s), but would not be a voting member of the panel. Based on the number of people signed up so far, there needs to be one more volunteer before the selection panel fulfills Spokane County's five (5) person requirement.

The discussion of the Optional Element Grant Work Group focused on responsibilities. Bill said the Instream Flow Optional Element Grant application is near completion and will not require a lot of additional work. The Water Quality Optional Element Grant application has not been started and may require detailed scoping before filling out the application. The water quality optional element grant scope of work could involve any number of issues and directions and is expected to require comprehensive knowledge of the copious investigations that have been conducted on the main stem of the Spokane River. The results of the ongoing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process will most likely also have a significant impact on any water quality investigation(s) conducted by the WRIA 54 Planning Unit and, therefore will need to be incorporated.

Another approach would be to wait until the Phase II Level 1 data compilation is complete and data gaps and issues can be identified. The water quality optional element grant funds in this case would be used to fill data gaps or address a specific problem or problems. However, a scope of work that is too specific may restrict the flexibility necessary to meet the project needs. The Steering Committee and Optional Element Grant Work Group will need to decide how to approach the water quality optional element grant scope of work and application preparation.

Bart Haggin asked about how the dams fit into watershed planning in WRIA 54. Stan Miller responded that watershed planning is about water quantity and dams are not central to that issue. Also, the small amount of funds available through the optional grant program (\$100,000) is not enough to be thorough and will probably only scratch the surface of the issue or problem we want to understand. As such, Stan also recommended the Planning Unit wait until Phase II Level 1 is well-underway before submitting the grant application for water quality.

Bill brought up starting a list of issues/problems now so that as we move forward, issues/problems are not lost or forgotten. Rob noted that a way to organize/categorize the issues/problems is to associate them with areas within the WRIA. Bill suggested breaking the WRIA into four or five areas such as the west plains, the Spokane Tribe reservation, the area east of the reservation and north of the river, the river and shoreline areas and the northwest portion of the City of Spokane.

Keith suggested that we might get a better response to our request for issues and problems by allowing some anonymity. One way to gather issues and problems would be to ask the Planning Unit members to write down

what issues and problems they are aware of in WRIA 54. Without the association of a person's name with an issue or problem, people will more freely write down their thoughts. Bill said he would start a list in order to not forget issues as they are brought up and at a later time officially request the Planning Unit for their input.

Public Comment

Doris Dietrich brought up a question regarding the Spokane Tribes' letter containing the statement "The Executive Order demonstrated the importance of water to the Spokane Tribe by including the south bank of the Spokane River ...". This letter was brought to the PU meeting by Chris Butler of the Spokane Tribe as their letter of concurrence for submitting an optional element grant application for instream flow. Doris stated she pumps water from the south bank of the Spokane River, across from the Spokane Tribe reservation, to irrigate her crops. Doris was concerned that the Spokane Tribe may try to cut her off from the river based on this statement. Doris is apparently pumping water from the current river bank, which is not the same river bank referenced in the 1881 treaty. The river channel in 1881 is much closer to the middle of the present-day Spokane River, due to the back up of water from dams. No other public comment was offered.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

The Airway Heights Community Center was chosen for the next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting on August 24, 2005 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The Planning Unit set tentative dates, times and locations for the Steering Committee and Phase II Consultant Selection Work Group meetings. The Steering Committee meeting was tentatively set for August 3, 2005 at Spokane County from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The Phase II Consultant Selection work Group meeting was tentatively set for July 20, 2005 at Spokane County from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Bill said he would send out a confirmation email regarding meeting schedules to the Planning Unit as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.