

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 Lower Spokane River
August 24, 2005

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

Susan Dar, Palisades Neighborhood	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	Stan Miller, Spokane County
Keith Holliday, WA State Depart. Of Ecology	Julia McHugh, Palisades Neighborhood
Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County	Bea Lackaff, Citizen at Large
Shallan Dawson, Citizen at Large	Doris Dietrich, Landowner
Hank Nelson, Avista Corporation	Jory Oppenheimer, HDR/EES
Bart Haggin, The Lands Council	Dick Price, Stevens County PUD #1
Bill Gilmour, Spokane County	Fran Bessermin, Lake Spokane Protection Assoc.
Michael B. McCollum, Eastern WA Univ.	Bob Derky, WDNR-Geology
Judy Kaufman, Spokane Fly Fishers	Rob Higgins, Association of Realtors
Christy Brown, CLB Planning	

Meeting began 6:00 pm

Bill Gilmour opened the meeting at approximately 6:00 pm. The attendees each had the opportunity to introduce themselves and what interest or organization they represent. Each person also documented their attendance on the sign-in sheet.

The July 13, 2005 WRIA 54 meeting summary was reviewed page by page with no comments. Jim DeGraffenreid motioned to accept the July 13, 2005 meeting summary as is, and Fran Bessermin seconded.

Bill apologized for distributing the August meeting package to some of the Planning Unit members the day of the meeting. He described an email contact list glitch that has been rectified. Bill noted that meeting times, dates, and locations, and meeting summaries and agendas are frequently updated on the Spokane County website (www.spokanewatershed.org), WRIA 54 link.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

WRIA 54 Phase II Grant Application Statuses

Bill asked Keith Holliday from the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) to update the Planning Unit on the status of the Phase II Grant Application. Keith said that he had received comments from Olympia and he had finished incorporating them. Keith already had sign-off from the Department of Ecology Spokane Office and will be sending the application to Olympia for final signature. Keith suggested that Spokane County will receive notice of the Phase II Grant Award in early September.

Steering Committee Report

The Steering Committee kick-off meeting was held on August 3, 2005. The committee identified roles and responsibilities that include: holding separate meetings (possibly by teleconference) outside of the Planning Unit meetings, creating agendas and meeting packages, organizing and scheduling field trip(s) within WRIA 54, arranging presentations during regular meetings, managing the WRIA 54 project funds, scheduling public meetings and workshops, and other administrative functions. The Steering Committee's primary role is project funds manager.

Spokane County volunteered as Lead Agency to organize the Phase II data requests from the Phase II technical consultant. Stevens County PUD and Lincoln County volunteered their staff to contribute GIS and other incidental data at no cost to the WRIA 54 project. The Steering Committee agreed that a fact sheet using river miles for control should be prepared with census data and water use, and future census data and water use estimates, etc. The Steering Committee also appointed Rob Lindsay as the committee spokesman. His responsibilities involve presenting committee reports at the Planning Unit meetings.

Rob described the contracting strategies the WRIA 54 Consultant Selection Work Group (Work Group) recommended to the Steering Committee for Phase II. The Work Group's recommendation is to execute two Phase II Level 1 contracts: one for facilitation and one for technical consulting. Spokane County will coordinate the request for qualifications process and execute the contracts. The facilitation contract will most likely extend to the end of Phase II, approximately 1.5 years. Subsequent Phase II technical consulting contracts, including the Instream Flow and Water Quality assessments, as well as Phase III (Watershed Plan preparation), may or may not be awarded to the incumbent consultant(s), at the discretion of the Planning Unit. The Steering Committee agreed with the recommendation at their 8/3/05 meeting. The Steering Committee also expressed an interest in requesting Stevens County to appoint a representative to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee agreed to authorize Rob Lindsay to send a letter to the Stevens County Commissioners requesting participation.

Several meeting presentation topics were discussed for future Planning Unit meetings. Stan Miller volunteered to present "A synopsis of historic studies of the water resources in WRIA 54" at the August 24, 2005 Planning Unit meeting. Future meeting presentation topics included: Department of Fish and Wildlife investigations in WRIA 54, Avista Relicensing, Spokane Tribe water resource and fisheries issues, Spokane River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project status (WA Department of Ecology), Eastern Washington University's Mike McCollum "West Plains geology", Dr. Allan Scholz "Spokane Tribe Projects" and Dr. Ray Soltero "Lake Spokane Investigations".

The committee also discussed scheduling a field trip. Spring 2006 was identified as the best time for a WRIA 54 field trip due to project timing relative to the Phase II Level 1 consultant's work schedule and the Planning Unit's knowledge of the WRIA.

WRIA 54 Phase II Consultant Selection Work Group Report

Bill Gilmour presented information regarding Spokane County contracting requirements and a handout listing the steps and timeline from advertising the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) through contract execution. In general, the steps discussed were: 1) advertise in the Spokesman Review on September 4, 2005 with a due date for the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) on September 21, 2005, 2) the WRIA 54 Consultant Selection Work Group (Work Group) and Spokane County Purchasing meet on or about September 23, 2005 to score the RFQ submittals, 3) interview a short list of firms during a special Planning Unit meeting on or about October 3, 2005, 4) select and recommend the most qualified firm(s) to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) during the week of October 10, 2005, 5) contract negotiations with the selected firm(s) are initiated immediately after BOCC approval, and 6) the contract between Spokane County and the selected firm(s) is signed by the Chairman of the BOCC. This timeline suggests that the technical consultant and facilitator could be under contract by the first week of November 2005.

The special Planning Unit meeting in October will provide a unique opportunity for the Planning Unit members to observe the technical consulting and facilitation firms respond to Work Group questions. Each firm will be asked the same list of questions created from the criteria in the Criteria and Weights.

Rob asked Stan Miller whether it was necessary to go before the BOCC a second time for approval of the negotiated contract with the selected firm(s). Stan stated that the resolution of recommendation for the most qualified firm(s) should include language that will authorize approval of the negotiated contract with a signature of the BOCC Chairman.

Hank Nelson asked how RFQs will be sent to firms. Bill responded that the RFQ will be advertised in the Spokesman Review newspaper and will also be sent to a list of consulting firms on file with the County. Spokane County is also contacting those local firms with a previously demonstrated interest in the project.

WRIA 54 Project Update Presentations to Stakeholder Organizations

Bill handed out a list of seventeen WRIA 54 stakeholder organizations that he has contacted regarding scheduling a watershed planning presentation. He has already scheduled three presentations for October 2005. Julia McHugh requested that the Palisades Neighborhood Group, with Robbi Castleberry at (509) 624-8384 as the contact for organizing presentations, be added to the list organizations.

Presentation by Stan Miller titled “A synopsis of historic studies of the water resources in WRIA 54”

Stan presented synopsis of investigations conducted in WRIA 54. Stan broke WRIA 54 into three broad groupings that included the: Spokane River, Lake Spokane, and West Plains Groundwater.

The Spokane River investigations included the following: various Spokane Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant investigations, the 1976 Metro Study (1972-1976), four investigations regarding Phosphorous Attenuation (1986), the USGS/WDOE Fish Tissue study, the USGS/EPA Sediment Testing study, and various reports prepared as a part of the Avista Relicensing process (including three major investigations concerning fisheries, sediment routing and a water quality model for the Spokane River and Lake Spokane).

Lake Spokane has had many investigations starting back in 1969 with Cunningham/Pine, 1972-1987 Ray Soltero et. al. (nine significant studies), 2000-2004 Spokane River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) that include the current dissolved oxygen investigations, phosphorous (three major investigations) studies, and Cd, Pb, and Zn metal studies (two significant investigations). Last for Lake Spokane investigations was the Spokane River discharger’s Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) Report.

The West Plains Groundwater investigations include: USGS Geiger investigation (1953), Deobold (1995), Columbia Plateau Sole Source Aquifer Designation (1996), many Graham Road Landfill investigations (CH2MHill and Emcon), and many Fairchild Air Force Base investigations.

Other investigations included the assessment and clean-up of Riverside State Park equestrian area and the medical waste assessment and clean-up in West Medical Lake. Stan stated that he did not cover anything conducted by the Spokane Tribe because Brian Crossley will provide a presentation concerning those investigations at a later time.

Discussion of potential impairment of wells surrounding the relatively new Airway Heights water well led to a discussion concerning the potential of a West Plains groundwater study. Stan stated that Washington State Department of Ecology may advocate for investigating a portion of the West Plains during the Phase II investigation. Some of the water supply challenges that the West Plains communities face were discussed.

Bob Derky requested that the Planning Unit write a support letter to Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in support of a mapping project that would cover the area south of Lake Spokane to Reardan. Dick Price motioned the Planning Unit write a support letter and Jim DeGraffenreid seconded the motion. Rob volunteered to provide Bob a draft support letter to DNR by Monday of the following week. A short discussion of what the support letter needs to contain was followed with a short presentation about the mapping project by Bob.

Public Comment

Bea Lackaff asked if DOE is considering impairment of wells due to nearby water pumping? She also asked what happens if wells go dry? Keith replied yes, that impairment issues are investigated. In fact, many

meetings concerning the City of Airway Heights' new water well have occurred. A general discussion occurred regarding water use and availability in the vicinity of the City of Airway Heights.

The Hutterites were mentioned as being large water users further west of the City of Airway Heights. Doris Dietrich stated that she thought the Hutterites were not extracting water directly from the Spokane River, but rather from deep wells near the river. Keith said that the Hutterites do have major water rights for the Spokane River and deep wells.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

The Tum Tum Community Center was chosen for the next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting on September 22, 2005 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Bill said he would schedule the meeting as soon as possible and notify the Planning Unit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.