

## **Meeting Summary Planning Unit**

### **Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan September 14, 2005**

**Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:**

Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Jim Marthaller and Mike	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	<i>Conservation District</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water &amp; Power</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus, Department of Ecology</i>	Reanette Boese, Rob Lindsay & Robbin Paeper, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i>	

**Consultants that attended the meeting were:** none

**Guests that attended the meeting were:** Mark Grandstaff, WDFW, Alyssa Douglas, Golder Associates, Jeff Storms, Sacheen Lake, Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn.

**Introductions:** Rob called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for August 11<sup>th</sup> was reviewed and approved.

**Update on Watershed Plan Adoption Process:** The County Commissioners at both the Spokane County public hearing (8/16/2005) and the Stevens County public hearing (8/18/2005) asked about a mechanism for reviewing the Watershed Plan. The Pend Oreille County Commissioners had concerns about the Lake Sacheen issues at the hearing on 8/29/2005.

A new set of Policy, Issue and Recommendation were proposed to answer the concerns of the Spokane and Stevens County Commissioners. There was discussion about what needed to be reviewed, the Watershed Plan or the detailed Implementation Plan. The Watershed Plan calls for adaptive management. A new recommendation could clarify what this means. Amendments to the Watershed Plan could follow the concept and procedures of amending the county comprehensive plans. It was recognized that the Watershed Plan needs to coordinate with the evolving Comprehensive Plans of all three counties. The Planning Unit gave preliminary approval to the following:

Policy VIII.E. The Watershed Plan should be responsive to new information and changing needs within the watersheds.

Issue VIII.E.01. How can the Watershed Plan adapt to new information and changing needs of the Watersheds?

Recommendation VIII.E.01.a. The Watershed Plan should reviewed and revised as needed, if funding is available, at five year intervals after the completion of the detailed Implementation Plan.

Recommendation VIII.E.01.b. Amendments to the Watershed Plan can be made, as required, by approval of the Planning Unit or its successor and adoption by the boards of county commissioners of all three counties.

Recommendation VIII.E.01.c. The detailed Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised as funding allows on an ongoing basis.

Jim Marthaller provided two recommendations proposed by the Pend Oreille County Commissioners for dealing with the issues on the West Branch of the Little Spokane River. The first suggested recommendation would obligate the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Ecology to develop legislation for trapping beavers. Keith Holiday said he can not respond to this obligation without consulting the

departments and he pointed out that these departments can not legally lobby for legislation. He suggested Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Pend Oreille County work on a recommendation that would work for all three. They will present it to the Planning Unit, hopefully, before the next meeting.

The second recommendation for additional stream gaging stations at several locations along the West Branch of the Little Spokane River would fit under Issue III.B.05.

New Recommendation III.B.05.b. Gaging stations should be placed between Sacheen Lake and Trout Lake, between Trout Lake and Fan Lake, and between Fan Lake and Eloika Lake to maintain minimum instream flows for the various reaches of the West Branch Little Spokane River as funding allows.

Rick Noll told the group about the gaging stations WSU has established along the West Branch as part of data collection for the Little Spokane TMDL. We may be able to take over the gaging stations with a large cost savings. Jim Marthaller mentioned that Dan Reiner, who owns Trout Lake, is also interested in helping with solving the problems on the West Branch.

The problem of making changes to the Watershed Plan after Planning Unit approval and Public Hearings was discussed. The Planning Unit needs to know whether a Planning Unit approved amendment to the existing approved draft Watershed Plan may be presented to the County Commissioners at the joint session, or if the Planning Unit will need to reissue the Watershed Plan and conduct another set of public hearings before convening the joint session. Rob Lindsay will consult with the Spokane County attorneys and Keith Holiday will consult with the Attorney General's office.

**Discussion of Phase IV strategies:** Spokane County handed out the Phase IV language from 90.82 RCW and pointed out the need to work with all municipal water rights holders. Two methods for prioritization of the Watershed Plan issues and recommendations were also handed out.

**Plan of actions for the next meeting:** Keith Holiday and Jim Marthaller will work together with the Department of Fish and Wildlife on wording for a recommendation about beavers. Rob and Keith will check with the Spokane County legal people and the Washington State Attorney General's office about what our options are for adoption of the Watershed Plan with these amendments. Rob Lindsay will check whether we can extend the WRIA 54 facilitation contract to include WRIA 55/57.

**Wrap Up:** The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2005, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.