

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
October 19, 2005

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	Reanette Boese, Rob
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i>	Lindsay & Robbin
Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i> <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County</i> <i>Conservation District</i>	Paeper, <i>Spokane</i> <i>County</i>

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: Kim Storms, Sacheen Lake, Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn, Mary Sterling, Darrell Johnson, and Kathleen Werr, Little Spokane homeowners, Mary Franklin, Chelsea Wood and Jennifer Davis from the office of the Spokane City Council.

Introductions: Rob called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Meeting Summary and letter to County Commissioners: The meeting summary for September 14th was reviewed and Keith Holliday noted that his statement about Ecology not being able to lobby the legislature was incorrect. He asked for a sentence in the September 14th meeting summary stating that he could not accept an obligation on the State's behalf without consulting with the agencies for their agreement.

Rob Lindsay distributed a letter sent by Spokane County as Lead Agency to the commissioners of all three counties summarizing the issues and recommending putting the joint session on hold until the issues are resolved.

Updates on Watershed Council Grant application and Middle Spokane Instream Flow grant: Rob Lindsay handed out a watershed council grant application Spokane County plans to submit to cover the costs of facilitating the WRIA meetings until the plan is adopted and Phase IV funds are obtained. The grants are for a maximum of \$15,000. The Planning Unit approved of Spokane County applying for the grant.

Several months ago Ecology asked for a wish list of projects for the watersheds. Spokane County submitted a few ideas in short paragraph form for both watersheds. Ecology decided to fund instream flow data collection on the Spokane River between the Monroe Street Dam and the confluence with Latah Creek. Lloyd expressed concerns about setting a minimum instream flow based on that limited stretch of river. Keith and Rob assured him that we will wait until more data are collected to set the minimum instream flow. Rob suggested we contract with the WRIA 54 contractor to do the work since the selection process is done and it would lead to consistency in data collection and coordination with WRIA 54. The Planning Unit agreed to Rob's suggestion. Lloyd and Keith volunteered to be on the scoping committee. Rob added that he would include this topic at the next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting and that he would seek volunteers from WRIA 54 to participate on the scoping committee. Rick Noll volunteered Walt Edelen and Kathleen Werr recommended Stephanie Swan for the committee.

Eloika Lake Storage Grant Application: Greg Sweeney explained the storage grant the Eloika Lake Association is writing with help from the Spokane County Conservation District. They would like to raise

the level of the lake 4 feet to create storage. The Planning Unit agreed that Rob Lindsay should write a support letter to the Department of Ecology.

Update on Pend Oreille County Issues: Keith Holiday handed out a copy of the response from the State to the Pend Oreille County Addendum handed out at the last meeting. He has discussed the response with Ecology and Fish and Wildlife and they have tentatively agreed with it. They would like to keep looking at issues from all the lakes in the area and not focus only on Lake Sacheen. Mike Lithgow just passed the response from the state on the Pend Oreille County Commissioners yesterday so they haven't had time to respond. Jim Marthaller felt positive about it. The Pend Oreille County Commissioners have scheduled an emergency meeting with the Department of Ecology on November 15. There was some discussion of the ways to set legal lake levels and the pros and cons of that.

West Branch of the Little Spokane below Sacheen Lake: Mary Sterling, Darrell Johnson, and Kathleen Werr gave background and information on the downstream effects of the beaver dams below Sacheen Lake. Mary and Darrell moved to the Little Spokane in the late 1970s and found out how the lake level was managed since sometime in the late 1930s. A landowner from the north end of the lake dynamited beaver dams but stopped that when he blew out windows in 1980. He continued with hand removal of dams but that didn't work as well. The Sacheen Lake Betterment Association began using tubes through the beaver dams in 1991. These clog up or become inoperable very quickly. When something is done to make the tubes work, the water rushes downstream and changes the condition of the riverbed and the wetlands. They would like studies of the effects of rapid water level and stream flow changes on the Little Spokane River system.

Mary, Darrell, and Kathleen believe there needs to be a solution that addresses the needs of the Lake and the downstream areas. They would like to see the lake level set formally and a more even streamflow out of the lake and through / over the beaver dams.

Rob Lindsay asked them to submit their written statement so it can be distributed to the Planning Unit.

City of Spokane Water Stewardship Program: Chelsea Wood and Jennifer Davis from the office of the Spokane City Council gave a presentation on the Water Stewardship program. They are creating an education program focusing on three areas: indoor residential water use, outdoor residential water use, and indoor industrial / commercial / institutional water use. They plan to create elementary educational materials to make water source education easily accessible.

The Planning Unit expressed a wish to work with these enthusiastic young women during implementation because water conservation is a significant part of the plan.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The Planning Unit will consider the policy, issues and recommendations first discussed at the September meeting at the next meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2005, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.