

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
December 13, 2005

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, *City of Spokane*
Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water*
Scott Kuhta, *City of Spokane Valley*
Walt Edelen, *Spokane County*
Conservation District

Mike Lithgow and Jim Marthaller,
Pend Oreille County
Dave Jones, *Water Quality*
Keith Holliday, *State Caucus,*
Department of Ecology

Reanette Boese, Rob
Lindsay, and Robbin
Paeper, *Spokane*
County

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake Homeowners and Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Rob called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for November 16 was reviewed and accepted as final.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow Scope of Work: The Middle Spokane Instream Flow group came up with a scope-of-work. Kathy Hubbard of Ecology had a few administrative changes which Rob accepted. Rob is hoping to get the resolution to accept the grant on the Spokane County Commissioner's agenda on December 20. Spokane County and the WRIA 54 consultant are also working on a WRIA 54 instream flow grant application. The idea is to have the same consultant collect the instream data in both WRIA 57 and WRIA 54 in the next year.

Review of Task 6 of the Phase III grant and Draft Implementation Plan: Reanette handed out the draft WRIA 55/57 Implementation Plan (Task 6 of the Phase III grant). This is the final task needed to close out the Phase III grant. She also handed out an implementation matrix in an order based on the average priority of the issue and all the recommendations under that issue. Two columns were added – one contains ideas of how the recommendation could be implemented and the second identifies whether the recommendation is a future water supply study (a requirement of Task 6). Walt Edelen said that NRCS runs the Wetlands Program with help from SCCD. The matrix will be changed to reflect that. Rob asked for any other changes by Thursday December 15 so this can be submitted to Ecology by the end of the week.

Greg Sweeney asked about future funding for Watershed Planning. Rob explained funding from the state for Phase IV in accordance with RCW 90.82. Keith reported that Ecology is already looking at the budget for Watershed Planning type projects for the 2007 – 2009 biennium. We need to consider the long term when we are preparing the Detailed Implementation Plan.

Update on Pend Oreille County Issues: Pend Oreille County asked to change their priorities on Issue III.B.03 and recommendation III.B.03.a from 1 to 3. They are willing to leave the priority as it in the Draft 3 Plan. We will revisit priorities during the Detailed Implementation Plan part of Phase IV.

An MOU has been signed by Pend Oreille County and the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife. Rep. Bob Morton asked Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) to craft a scope of work to deal with the issues of the lakes in WRIA 55 to present to the state legislature. Keith is working with

the POCD on a 10 year scope of work with a budget of 4.8 million dollars to deal with problems of too much and too little water in the whole chain of lakes and the river segments connecting them.

Keith suggested a special subcommittee of the Planning Unit for WRIA 55 lake issues. The job of this group would be to come up with a long-term, system-wide way to work on the problems in the upper portion of WRIA 55.

Jim Marthaller mentioned the “non-navigable” status of the Little Spokane River and the possibility of a court case on that. The Lake Sacheen bond levy passed but they may not use the money to buy the Silver Creek land. Silver Creek owners will give the Sacheen Lake group an easement so the money can be spent on other projects to solve the problem.

Rob Lindsay will work to set up a joint session of the three sets of County Commissioners to adopt the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Management Plan. The joint session will probably take place in January.

Public Comment and other issues: Reanette handed out information on the 5th Annual Lakes Conference in February at SCC. Rob mentioned the AWWA meeting coming up in May and the AWRA meeting on watershed planning in Missoula sometime later in 2006.

Rob told the group that someone requested to hear a tape from a previous meeting and we found it for them. Rob asked for discussion on continuing to record the meetings and how long to keep the tapes afterwards. Susan suggested checking the RCWs for the rules on recordings of public meetings. Lloyd would like the tapes to be kept until the Detailed Implementation Plan is completed. Scott Kuhta suggested keeping the tapes in the office – they can listen to it but not remove it. Jim Marthaller’s experience is that having tapes of the meetings is good backup.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday January 18, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.