

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
February 15, 2006

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
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality</i>	Lindsay, and Robbin
Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus, Department of Ecology</i>	Paeper, <i>Spokane County</i>
Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County Cons Dist</i>	Tim Vore, <i>Avista</i>	Megan Nicodemus, <i>Wash. Dept of Health</i>
	Russ Fletcher, <i>Pend Oreille Cons Dist</i>	

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: Gary Vierra, Washington State Parks, Stan Miller, Jeff Storms, Sacheen Lake, Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake Homeowners and Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for January 18, 2006 was reviewed and accepted as final. Rob stated that the meeting summary is not the same as minutes. The meetings are recorded for backup in creating the meeting summaries but will be available for review at Spokane County's Public Works Building for any one who wishes to review them. The tapes will be kept for at least six years.

Update on the Joint Session of County Commissioners: The joint session of the Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Spokane County Commissioners took place on January 31, 2006 and the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan was adopted.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow study: The Spokane River Instream flow technical committee will meet February 22 at 1 p.m. in room 2A at the Spokane County Public Works building. The technical committee will help with determining the locations and methodologies for the study. The WRIA 57 portion of the study will look at flow needs for juvenile and adult fish between the Monroe Street dam and the confluence with Latah (Hangman) Creek. The locations for the WRIA 54 study will be determined by the technical committee along with the consultant and the Washington State Dept of Fish and Wildlife. The field work will need to be done during this field season – April to October. Tom Wimpy asked to be added to the committee.

Phase IV grant application: Rob will have a draft Phase IV grant application ready for Planning Unit review for the next meeting. Russ Fletcher wondered if the WRIAs can be split for implement because of some concerns that WRIA 57 issues would have higher priority than WRIA 55 issues. Rob explained that that it would be almost impossible to split the watersheds now that we have an approved plan. Ty Wick thinks there are probably more opportunities for helping the watershed in the Little Spokane than in WRIA 57. We may be able to address the concern in the MOU. Ability to secure money for a project may determine when the project is done.

MOU: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) or agreement (MOA) needs to be completed before we begin accepting money for the Phase IV grant and before we begin making decisions about the Detailed Implementation Plan. Other agreements may be needed before we start spending money on implementation. We will use the MOA drafted by Bill Rickard of the City of Spokane for WRIA 56 as a starting point.

Moving forward with Phase IV: The group would like to move forward while waiting for the MOA to be written and signed. One step will be to continue to refine the implementation matrix. Rob suggested forming committees to bring suggestions for adding details to the implementation plan. Possible committees include water conservation, water rights, instream flow, and the Little Spokane West Branch and Lakes. Rob would also like to form a steering committee. The Planning Unit formally authorized the formation of committees and then formally authorized the formation of the Little Spokane West Branch and Lakes committee. Keith, Russ Fletcher, Mike Lithgow, Jeff Storms, Greg Sweeney, and Tom Wimpy will work to form the committee. They expressed the need for a facilitator and operating procedures because there is already a problem with trust between landowners in the area. Keith will work to find technical assistance for the committee from the Department of Ecology. Russ is working on a grant for the Sacheen Lake issues. Keith and the Pend Oreille Conservation District are working on a grant for wetlands delineation and other work in the Little Spokane West Branch area.

Rob also asked for volunteers for a steering committee. Keith, Lloyd, Tom Wimpy, Ty Wick volunteered. The steering committee will start work on the MOA.

Spokane County will send out the prioritized implementation matrix and examples of operating procedures to the Planning Unit well before the next meeting.

Public Comment and other issues: Lloyd invited everyone to the Washington Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting about the Spokane River cleanup this evening.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District downstairs conference room.