

## Meeting Summary Planning Unit

### Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan March 15, 2006

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

Lloyd Brewer, *City of Spokane*  
Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water & Power*  
Ty Wick, *SAJB*  
Walt Edelen, *Spokane County Cons Dist*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water*  
Mike Lithgow, *Pend Oreille County*  
Dave Jones, *Water Quality*  
Keith Holliday, *State Caucus, Department of Ecology*  
Tim Vore, *Avista*

Roger Krieger, *Deer Park*  
Reanette Boese, Rob  
Lindsay, and Robbin  
Paeper, *Spokane County*

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

**Guests that attended the meeting were:** Debbie Harkness, Diamond Lake Improvement Association, Stan Miller, and Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn.

**Introductions and Meeting Summary:** Rob called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for February 15, 2006 was reviewed and accepted as final.

**Steering Committee Update:** The steering committee met Wednesday March 1 with Lloyd, Keith, Tom Wimpy, Rob, and Reanette. The steering committee discussed the MOA, the Ecology budget workshop, and the agenda. There was a question about the purpose of the steering committee. Rob explained that the intent of the steering committee is to take some of the leadership role off of Spokane County and provide opportunity for others in the Planning Unit to become involved in the management/direction of WRIA 55/57. Rob also noted that the steering committee would address administrative issues that have the potential to take time from Planning Unit meetings. All Planning Unit members are invited to participate in the steering committee. The next steering committee meeting will be April 5 at 10 a.m. in the Spokane County Public Works building.

**Phase IV grant application:** Rob passed out a draft Phase IV grant application ready for Planning Unit review. The first year grant to write the detailed implementation plan is for \$125,000 and the Planning Unit needs to match 10%. The match can be in kind services. The detailed implementation plan must meet the adequacy check list referenced in task 3 of the scope of work to continue on with Phase IV after the first year. We need to get the MOA signed and decide what we want a consultant to do before we start spending Phase IV money. Ty suggested using the WRIA 56 consultant because it could save us time and money. The steering committee should begin work on the scope of work and suggestions for selecting a consultant.

**MOA:** Lloyd discussed the draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) passed out at the meeting. This MOA is not limited to the initiating governments. Also, Keith stated that the state agencies will each need to sign the MOA – the state did not sign the original MOA. The MOA describes methods of adding and removing members. The decision making process is also outlined – consensus is still the preferred method. Lloyd would like everyone to consider section 8.1.1 because he is concerned about what happens if a “signatory agency” drops out of the process.

Keith said that some planning groups are not creating a 2<sup>nd</sup> MOA for Phase IV. Lloyd stated that the City of Spokane needs a new agreement before continuing. Susan asked that the signatories be categorized as

government or non-government. Roger suggested that the beginning “Watershed Implementation Team” should consist of all the MOA signatories along with the groups that voted on plan approval on July 7, 2005. Send suggestions for change to Lloyd before the next meeting.

**WA Ecology Budget workshop:** Keith explained that the workshop in Moses Lake on Thursday will be planning for Ecology’s Watershed Planning budget for the 2007 – 2009 biennium. Ecology would like a list of projects Watershed groups would like help with funding by April 31. This deadline will be hard for our group to meet because we are not yet to the point of knowing the costs of specific projects. There may be other opportunities for requesting funding later. These funds are in addition to the Phase IV implementation funding.

Some potential WRIA 55/57 project categories include conservation, wetlands restoration, and new / reactivated gages. Some specific conservation projects could be developing conservation education materials or an irrigation efficiency program for public spaces like parks, golf courses, or school play fields. Conservation education will need to include both outdoor and indoor water use. Wetlands restoration projects could include areas in the Little Spokane or Saltese Flats. There was a discussion of Saltese Flats issues. Spokane County would like ideas before the next meeting.

**Update on the West Branch LSR lakes committee:** The organizing group met March 3 to talk about structure, code of conduct, the first meeting of the complete committee, and the need for a facilitator. There was some confusion about the purpose of the meeting. There will be another organizational meeting soon.

**Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow committee:** The Spokane River Instream flow technical committee has met twice with the consultant. They have chosen the locations and methodologies for the study. The field work will need to be done during this field season – April to October.

**Public Comment and other issues:** Greg Sweeney reported that the Eloika Lake association endorsed participation in the West Branch LSR lakes committee. There is an old meter (gaging station) at Jerry’s Landing that the ELA would like to have reactivated. There will be a meeting of the Eloika Lake Association April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Peaceful Valley Church.

**Wrap Up:** The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District downstairs conference room.