

Meeting Summary
Planning Unit
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
May 31, 2006

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Reanette Boese, Rob
Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Lindsay, and Robbin
Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i>	Paeper, <i>Spokane</i>
<i>County</i>	<i>Department of Ecology</i>	<i>County</i>
Tim Vore, <i>Avista</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>	

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

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for April 16, 2006 was reviewed and accepted.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow committee: Instream flow work will begin when the flow drops to between 7,000 and 8,000 cfs. Tim Vore said that may happen as early as next week for just a couple day with current conditions. Rob will call the consultant to inform them of the potential short window of preferred flows. They will need to collect data on 2 transects in WRIA 57 and some others in WRIA 54. Spokane County will take pictures from bridges for at least one site in WRIA 57.

Steering Committee Update: The steering committee met Monday May 22 with Lloyd, Keith, Tom Wimpy, Ty Wick, Rob, and Reanette. The steering committee discussed the agenda, the MOA, Phase IV consultant selection and future programs for WRIA 55/57 meetings. The draft Phase IV application is being reviewed by Ecology and review by the Planning Unit will be the next step. There are 3 parts to the draft scope – (1) administration by Spokane County, (2) work on the detailed scope with the consultant, and (3) the 12 months to create the Detailed Implementation Plan.

Update on the West Branch LSR lakes committee: The organizing group had a third organizational meeting – the second with Michele Vasquez as facilitator. They have a draft mission statement, operating procedures, and code of conduct for the first general meeting. The first real meeting will be a morning session and an evening session some time after Labor Day. The hope is that people will identify the issues and sign up to work on the issues. Hopefully associations will select representatives so the committee will not be too large to work well. There is \$75,000 in the state budget for the Little Spokane River through Senator Morton for Sacheen Lake work and a facilitator when Michele can no longer be the facilitator.

MOA: Lloyd reported on progress with the MOA. The Attorney General's office had issues with section 10.2 of the MOA – a section requested by the Spokane Tribe for WRIA 54 – because it appears to conflict with section 10.3. Lloyd handed out sections 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3 and alternative language for 10.2. The group agreed to remove section 10.2 from the MOA because there are no tribes actively participating in WRIA 55/57. Lloyd will make changes to the MOA and Reanette will send out clean copies to give to organizations' lawyers for review. Send names of the persons who will sign the MOA as well as matching funding estimates to Reanette. We will ask for approximately a 2 week turn around time.

Phase IV consultant selection: The Phase IV consultant selection process needs to move forward along with the grant application and the MOA. Rob asked if he was correct in believing that the group wants a

facilitation / planning consultant for Phase IV. Not all of the group remembered discussing this in the past but agreed that is what we want. Rob asked for volunteers to serve on the consultant selection committee. The committee will need to review RFQ submittals and attend a meeting to discuss the submittals. If the committee decides they need to interview potential consultants, there will be at least another meeting. It will take at least a month before the review of proposals can begin. Susan McGeorge, Walt Edelen, Lloyd Brewer, and Rob Lindsay will be on the committee.

Project Proposals: Reanette handed out the 8 project proposals WRIA 55/57 submitted to Ecology for consideration in Ecology's budget for the biennium 2007 – 2009. At the meeting on April 27 a sub group edited and prioritized the proposals. The rankings were:

- (1) Little Spokane River Instream Flow Gage Activation
- (2) Water Conservation Education and Awareness Program.
- (3) West Branch of the Little Spokane River Watershed Assessment
- (4) Water Conservation Pilot Projects for Irrigation of Public/Private Properties.
- (5) Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study
- (6) Spokane Water Conservation Incentives Program
- (7) Water Rights Data Base Evaluation
- (8) Surface Runoff Storage Feasibility - Eloika Lake, West Branch, Little Spokane River

The Eloika Lake project may be done as part of the West Branch study and the sub group thought it could be wrapped into that proposal making it a higher priority. Keith submitted the Eloika project proposal because communication between Rob Fletcher and Greg Sweeney didn't happen in the short time before the deadline.

Ecology Eastern region staff sorted the proposals into capital and operating projects and ranked them within those categories. The capital projects were separated into storage, infrastructure, conservation, and other subcategories. All of the WRIA 55/57 proposals were forwarded to Ecology headquarters and ranked fairly high.

Ecology headquarters seemed to be surprised at the number and dollar amounts of the project proposals. The Eastern region received 62 proposals – 30 from Walla Walla alone. The WRIAs, other than Walla Walla, submitted proposals requesting \$2.5 million for operating projects and \$1.8 million for capital projects. Keith will know more about Ecology's strategy after a meeting at headquarters this Friday, June 2.

Public Comment and other issues: Steve Skipworth asked about the Whitewater Park – he's wondering if this or another of its kind could keep water in the aquifer. Greg Sweeney said that David W. Evans is engineering the Whitewater Park and it should not act as much of a dam. The website with information on the Whitewater Park proposals is www.FriendsoftheFalls.org. Steve suggested looking at other places along the river where this kind of facility could keep water in the aquifer therefore keeping the aquifer level higher through the summer.

Rob and Reanette of Spokane County met with Chelsea Wood of the City of Spokane's council office, Lloyd and Bill Rickard of City of Spokane Environmental Programs, and Brook Beeler of Ecology about coordinating water conservation programs. We may want to create a conservation, reclamation, and reuse subcommittee soon.

Walt Edelen asked about the status of the Spokane River TMDL. Lloyd said that Ecology is putting out a final draft or final soon – he thought by the middle of June.

Keith informed the group that the 9 treaty tribes have sent a letter to the Attorney General about HB 1338 – the municipal water bill. This may be leading up to a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of the bill.

Steve Skipworth announced his retirement and said Todd Henry will be his replacement on the WRIA 55/57 committee. He will still be doing some projects for Vera Water & Power and may attend a few meetings in the future.

Future Agenda Items: Updates on the Spokane River TMDL, Avista relicensing, the Bi-state Aquifer Study, the Whitewater Park, Adjudication (probably in July), and Conservation.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.