

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan June 21, 2006

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, *City of Spokane*
Ty Wick, *SAJB*
Mike Lithgow, *Pend Oreille
County*
Dave Jones, *Water Quality
Advisory Committee*
Tim Vore, *Avista*

Scott Kuhta and Patrice Clemons,
City of Spokane Valley
Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water*
Todd Henry, *Vera Water & Power*
Keith Holliday, *State Caucus,
Department of Ecology*
Walt Edelen, *SCCD*

Amber Waldref, *Lands
Council*
Reanette Boese, Rob
Lindsay, and Robbin
Paeper, *Spokane
County*

Guests that attended the meeting were: Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake, Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn., Stan Miller, Vincent Jansen, Nicole Powell, and Steve Faust of Friends of the Falls.

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 May 31, 2006 was reviewed and accepted.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow committee: Instream flow work will begin soon – probably this Friday and Saturday. There will be a link on the watershed website for the instream flow information as we receive it.

Steering Committee Update: The steering committee met Thursday June 8 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.

Update on the West Branch LSR lakes committee: The organizing group had a fourth organizational meeting - Michele Vasquez was facilitator. They are working on what they want to communicate to the community and building trust. The real kick off meeting will probably be in late September. There will be a link from the Watershed web site to a website for the West Branch group

MOA: Reanette sent out clean copies of version 13b of the MOA to give to organizations' lawyers for review. She reminded the group that we need names of the persons who will sign the MOA as well as matching funds estimates. This information is supposed to be returned by Friday June 23. Lloyd believes it is important for all agencies to sign the MOA. The City of Spokane will be raising the amount of its match some. Susan McGeorge says she has an office person who will be able to work half time for the group as match from Whitworth Water. Greg asked if other committee work and work in the watershed could count towards the match. Everyone will need to keep track of their time

Phase IV: Rob passed out a draft version of the Phase IV Scope of Work / RFQ. It is for facilitator and planning services to create the DIP. He would like to receive comments by Friday so Spokane County purchasing can begin the consultant selection process.

Watershed Planning Questionnaire: Reanette handed out a questionnaire for participants of watershed planning. Dunau Associates designed the questionnaire for the Dept of Ecology to help assess the status,

strengths, needs and opportunities facing watershed planning in Eastern Washington. The group worked on filling out the questionnaire while Steve Faust set up the equipment for the following presentation.

Great Spokane River Gorge Strategic Plan and the Whitewater Park: Steve Faust, executive director of the Friends of the Falls presented a short video and PowerPoint presentation about the strategic plan for the gorge and the whitewater park. Chapter 3 of the strategic plan, available on their website, is a good overview of the 15 priority projects defined by Friends of the Falls. The projects focus on the 400 acres of publicly owned land along the river from Riverfront Park to High Bridge Park. The goal is for more people to be able to enjoy the river gorge. One of the priority projects is the proposed kayak (whitewater) park including 2 U shaped rock structures on the downstream side of the new Sandifur foot bridge. The current plan is for one of the structures to create optimum conditions at 5000 to 6000 cfs and the other at 1500 cfs. The structures should not create a navigation problem for any other kind of floaters or fish in the river. Erosion control is also important. Abandoned concrete piers from old bridges will be cut off at the bottom of the river for safety. There are plans for both sides of the river near the whitewater park including parking improvements, restrooms and seating / picnicking areas.

Public Comment and other issues: Lloyd announced that the Washington Citizen's Advisory Committee (WCAC) will have a public meeting in July on the 11th, 12th, or 19th. EPA will discuss the Starr Road materials removal for metals cleanup and other River topics.

The City of Spokane Valley will have workshops on the redevelopment for the Sprague and Appleway corridor in the afternoon of July 19 at CenterPlace.

Future Agenda Item Suggestion: Update on the City of Spokane's water stewardship program.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 19, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The meeting agenda will include Department Ecology staff and discussions of adjudication and the Municipal Water Bill. We need to invite elected officials of water districts and other government agencies so they can find out about the current water issues.