

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan September 20, 2006

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Brian Walker, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Reanette Boese, Rob
Roger Krieger, <i>Deer Park</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus,</i>	Lindsay, and
Ty Wick and Julia McHugh, <i>SAJB</i>	<i>Department of Ecology</i>	Robbin Paeper,
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Megan Nicodemus, <i>Dept of Health</i>	<i>Spokane County</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality Advisory</i>	
Tim Vore, <i>Avista</i>	<i>Committee</i>	

Guests that attended the meeting were: Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake, Stan Miller, and April Brast, GeoEngineers.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Reanette called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summaries for June 21, 2006 and August 16, 2006 were reviewed and accepted.

Update on the West Branch LSR lakes committee: The kickoff meetings will be 6:30 to 8:30 Tuesday September 26 at Stratton Elementary School in Newport and Thursday September 28 at Riverside High School. The presenters will make sure it is clear that the committee that forms is part of Watershed Planning.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow committee: The draft instream flow report is due in mid November.

Conservation: There have been two meetings at the Department of Ecology on coordinating all of the conservation efforts in our area. There will be an email list for all parties interested in water conservation in our region, including Idaho. There will be meetings, perhaps monthly, to share ideas on conservation topics and give groups a chance to collaborate on conservation projects.

Tom Wimpy does not want conservation education to include tactics like comparing our water use to places with totally different climates and lot sizes. The City of Spokane has set significant conservation goals. Susan McGeorge will talk about Whitworth Water District's conservation pricing at the next SAJB meeting next Thursday. Dave Jones suggested citizens will resist changing their water use when they see public entities wasting water.

MOA: Many of the organizations listed on the MOA have signed: Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, Spokane County, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, SAJB, Washington State Department of Ecology, and Whitworth Water District. Roger Krieger said the MOA is on Deer Park City Council agenda for tonight. Todd Henry said Vera Water and Power is almost done. Reanette reminded Millwood and Liberty Lake. We need to check with Spokane County Conservation District.

Phase IV: The RFQ is out and responses are due September 27. The selection committee will meet October 3 to review the submittals. Interviews, if necessary, will be October 17. We will probably not be able to announce the selected consultant at the next meeting.

Conservation Education Grant: Keith said the contract between Ecology and SAJB for water conservation educational materials is close to being signed. This was a proposal we submitted for the next biennium that Ecology had money for and decided to fund early. Julia explained some of the uses for the money: a third comic book, public service announcements, giveaways, and conservation virtual field trips on the web. The other project proposals sent to the Department of Ecology for the next biennium may still be funded later.

Susan McGeorge suggested “Entering Watershed” signs like on the west side of the state. There are signs about the aquifer along state roads and the Centennial Trail, but more signs about protecting water would be good public outreach and should be considered.

Water System Plan Checklist: Reanette handed out a draft Water System Plan checklist. She went through the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan recommendations and selected any recommendation that might be similar to information in Water System Plans. Based on those recommendations, questions for the purveyor to answer about their Water System Plan were created. Since we have recommendations rather than requirements, most of these questions need to be framed as informational rather than requirements. Water Purveyors can help us understand the conditions in the watershed and we may be able to help them implement some of their projects that apply to our recommendations. Topics include water conservation, water reclamation, water use and pumping data, water availability, and wells near rivers.

We need to figure out the logistics of checking the Water Systems Plans for consistency. Do we send the questions to the purveyors and ask them to answer them or tell us where the answers are in their plans? Or do we send them the questions and invite them to our meeting to discuss the topics?

Reanette will make a second draft and email it to Planning Unit members with a one week comment period. We will try to finalize the checklist at the next WRIA 55/57 meeting.

Public Comment and other issues: There is a Watershed Conference in Walla Walla October 16 – 20. The Washington Citizen’s Advisory Committee meets tonight at the Valley Medical Center with several speakers on topics of interest to this group. Keith followed up on the Green Bluff complaint letter Rob mentioned at the last meeting and met with the Ecology staff member who is dealing with the issue. The letter misrepresented some aspects including the amount of water being used. Ecology may require a measuring device on the well in question. The WRIA 54 Phase II, Level 1 report is out in draft form. The next two WRIA 54 meetings will be public meetings for comment on the report.

Future Agenda Item Suggestion: Water system plan checklist.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.