

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

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

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, *City of Spokane*
Ty Wick, *SAJB*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water*
Todd Henry, *Vera Water & Power*

Jim Marthaller, *Pend Oreille County*
Brian Walker, *The Lands Council*

Mary Wren-Wilson, *City of
Liberty Lake*

Jamie Short, *State Caucus,
Department of Ecology*

Tom Wimpy, *Diamond Lake*
Greg Sweeney and Mike
Carney, *Eloika Lake Assn*

Kristine Graf, *City of
Spokane Water Dept.*

Rick Noll, *SCCD*

Reanette Boese, Rob
Lindsay, and Robbin
Paeper, *Spokane
County*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Reanette called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for October 18, 2006 was reviewed and accepted.

Update on the West Branch LSR watershed committee: Tom Wimpy reported that the committee is still working on the operating procedures and voting method. A lot of the lakes along the West Branch are represented at the meetings. The committee would like to be done with some recommendations for the WRIA 55/57 DIP by the end of July. This means the committee won't want to spend a long time hiring a facilitator. Rick Noll suggested to the West Branch committee they consider having facilitation of the West Branch meeting be added on to the WRIA 55/57 Phase 4 facilitator contract. The facilitator cost would still be paid by the money the Pend Oreille Conservation District received for this purpose. A quick turn around time on strategies forwarded to the full WRIA 55/57 group will help with development of the DIP. This committee can also decide on strategies outside of the WRIA process that they can pursue separately. The next meeting will be November 27.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow: Rob Lindsay reported that the draft report should be out in December or January.

Conservation: Ty Wick reported that the group discussed an idea from the Spokane County Conservation District for getting conservation curricula into the area schools. The SAJB had trouble doing this in the past. Greg Sweeney said a group he was involved in got "Water Ways" into School District 81 about 10 years ago. We should find out if teachers in SD81 are still using the curriculum. Some other school districts, particularly smaller ones, may not be as hard to approach. The City of Spokane is working with at least one school to help them conserve water. The City provided free educational materials and they hope there will be a financial benefit for the school from lower water and electricity bills. Getting conservation curricula in the schools may require more than free materials, they may need an additional (financial) benefit.

Phase IV Consultant selection: The team of Sound Resolutions / Cascadia was selected for the Phase 4 contract. Spokane County is currently negotiating a scope of work and contract. If a contract cannot be negotiated with the top choice, the second choice will be contacted. It may take over a month to get a contract signed. Susan Gulick of Sound Resolutions would like to get the first draft of the DIP to the group by September 1, 2007. Greg Sweeney pointed out that this first draft date means the West Branch group needs to get recommendations to the group ASAP. Tom Wimpy wants to know the requirements of the West Branch appropriation. Jim Marthaller will ask Russ Fletcher to make that available at the

next West Branch meeting. The possibility of Susan Gulick facilitating the West Branch meetings was brought up again. Jim Marthaller suggested that the West Branch facilitator should attend WRIA 55/57 meetings as part of their contract.

Phase IV Scope of Work: Spokane County made some changes to the draft Phase IV scope of work since it was emailed to the group about one week ago. The majority of the changes were to the money amounts because of the way Sound Resolutions wants to split the money between the two tasks of the scope of work. Also, the grant will be split between two Washington State fiscal years and even between two biennia. The Phase IV grant provides \$125,000 for the first year to create the Detailed Implementation Plan. A 10% match must be provided by this group.

Reanette also handed out the Phase IV adequacy checklist. There was some discussion of the municipal inchoate water rights requirements that the detailed implementation plan - "...address the planned future use of existing water rights for municipal water supply purposes, as defined in RCW [90.03.015](#), that are inchoate, including how these rights will be used to meet the projected future needs identified in the watershed plan, and how the use of these rights will be addressed when implementing instream flow strategies identified in the watershed plan." Jamie Short assured the group that the requirements aren't as bad as they may sound and that we have already completed some of the requirements.

Water System Plan Checklist: Megan Nicodemus sent an email to Reanette saying she will review the planning unit checklist and procedures with the water system at preplan time and follow-up with water systems or the planning unit to clarify things or answer any questions. She will ask the Water Systems that have already submitted their Water System Plans to copy pages of their water systems plans that cover the items on the checklist and send them to Spokane County. We will need to review the water system plans for consistency with our watershed plan and send a signature from a designated member of the planning unit verifying that the water system plan is determined to be "not inconsistent" with the 55/57 Watershed Plan. We can simply add a signature line to the checklist and send an original to the Department of Health.

Susan McGeorge suggested forming a subgroup to review the plans and checklists and bring recommendations to the full group. The subcommittee will determine if the information provided is sufficient to determine consistency or if the Planning Unit needs to talk with a Water System representative. The Planning Unit agreed and a subcommittee of Susan McGeorge, Kristine Graf, Brian Walker, and Reanette Boese was formed.

Phase IV direction: We began the first step in creating a Detailed Implementation plan by indicating which recommendations we believe (1) have a high benefit to the watershed and (2) are practical to implement. The group had the options of high, medium or low for both of these aspects of the first 12 recommendations on the prioritized list. Reanette recorded the "votes" for each recommendation. This exercise made us aware that we need to check the status of some processes related to the recommendations. (1) We need to know what water quality modeling has been done for the TMDL since we made these recommendations and what will be done as part of the TMDL Managed Implementation Plan. (2) Lloyd will find out what the Avista workgroup final recommendation was for aesthetic flows through the north channel of the Spokane River through Riverfront Park.

Public Comment and other issues: A workshop to discuss the results of the survey we filled out earlier this year will be December 6. The workshop is mainly for lead agency/coordinators but may be helpful for some other members of the Planning Unit/WIT. All are welcome to attend.

The Spokane River Clean Water Workshop happened on Saturday November 4. Bea Lackaff of Spokane County attended and displayed Watershed Planning information.

Mary Wren-Wilson offered CDs of the City of Liberty Lake's draft EIS for the expansion of UGA boundaries. The draft EIS is also available on their website. The comment period ends December 8.

Future Agenda Items: Susan McGeorge would like an update on Saltese Flats. Mary Wren-Wilson will find out the most recent information known at Liberty Lake. One of their UGA options is to expand to the Saltese Flats area with the idea of setting some of it aside as open space.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Spokane County Conservation District.