

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

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

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Brian Farmer, <i>State Caucus,</i>	Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	<i>Department of Ecology</i>	Kristine Graf, <i>City of</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Spokane County</i>	<i>Spokane Water Dept.</i>
Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	<i>Planning Commission</i>	Rick Noll and Walt
Micki Harnois, <i>Spokane Valley</i>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>	Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>
Mary Wren-Wilson, <i>City of Liberty</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe</i>	Reanette Boese and Rob
<i>Lake</i>	<i>Lake</i>	Lindsay, , <i>Spokane</i>
Brian Walker, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assn</i>	<i>County</i>

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Reanette called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for November 15, 2006 was reviewed and accepted with a change in the name of the West Branch LSR group from “lakes” to “watershed”.

Update on the West Branch LSR watershed committee: The committee has been able to make all decisions by consensus so far. Each member has one vote. Administrative issues will be decided by a simple majority, other issues will need a supermajority (60 or 70%). All people who attended two of the first 4 meetings are now members. Others can become members by attending 3 consecutive meetings. Russ Fletcher of the POCD will send out an RFP for a facilitator soon. Kathleen Werr is now employed by POCD though she represents herself at the WBLSRWC. The next meeting will be January 22 or 29 depending meeting location availability.

Rick Noll brought up the transducers WSU placed in the Little Spokane for the TDML investigation that WSU wants to turn over to the SCCD. SCCD will need a source of funding to maintain and operate the transducers for gaging the Little Spokane. Reanette noted that Spokane County spoke with SCCD and then sent a request to Ecology for \$50,000 to keep the gages on the West Branch operating until the end of June 2007. Greg Sweeney asked if Rick could present information about the gages to the WBLSR WC so they would know what’s happening.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow: Rob Lindsay reported that the draft report will be late – February rather than January 2007. The contract calls for them to present their findings to WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 54. The contractor would like to combine the groups for the presentation. Lloyd pointed out that finding a good location might be difficult. The group left it up to Spokane County to arrange the presentations.

Conservation: Reanette reported on the conservation group’s meeting with Tim Wilson of the Washington Irrigation Contractors Association (WICA) to plan irrigation water conservation classes for park and school employees as well as irrigation system installation contractors. The classes are tentatively scheduled for the end of February – beginning of March. Walt asked if there are any conservation guidelines or recommendation on the installation of irrigation systems. No one was aware of any. Ty said all purveyors will develop conservation plans and they will individually decide whether to include such guidelines. Micki Harnois said the City of Spokane Valley is looking at landscaping guidelines that will reduce water use on places like parking strips.

Ty Wick reported on the SAJB's conservation education project. They have a contract for a third comic book with a conservation theme and virtual field trips with a FAQ page for the web due out in spring. SAJB will be looking for a new contractor for the 4 to 5 TV spots in January. The money needs to be spent by July 1, 2007.

Conservation funding proposal: Brain Walker explained a proposal initiated from Senator Lisa Brown's office for state funding from the legislature of \$2 million for universal metering, a database to track water use, and leak detection and repair over the SVRP Aquifer. The proposal is in the early stages. Ty said the money could be helpful, most of the purveyors over the Aquifer have source and service meters but leak detection and repair money would help. The smaller purveyors and outlying area would benefit from this kind of funding. Rob said Spokane County will assist as needed. Brian will keep the Planning Unit posted as this moves forward.

Water System Plan Checklist: Reanette received three Water System Plan checklists last week. The committee of Susan McGeorge, Kris Graf, Brian Walker, and Reanette reviewed the checklists. All members agreed that the Plans are consistent with the Watershed Plan. Susan commented that one of the plans was progressive but two did not really address some of the issues but all three met the minimum requirements and are not inconsistent with the Watershed Plan. Other members of the subcommittee concurred. Ty suggested including what we would like to see in the letter to the Department of Health. Reanette will draft the letter and send it to Susan, Brian, Kris, Lloyd and Ty for review.

Other Issues: Reanette reported faxing the "Statement of Agreed Priority" of water quality loans and grants for fiscal year 2008 to Ecology on December 12. Lloyd recommended that in future the priority ranking be discussed at a Watershed group meeting. Brian Farmer said he will work to make sure the WRIA units are better informed in the future.

Mary Wren-Wilson handed out maps of the preferred alternative for expansion of the Liberty Lake UGA. Most of the priority habitat including Saltese Flats was removed from the preferred alternative after the Planning Commission meeting. Liberty Lake will let Spokane County conserve the wetlands per discussion with Bruce Rawls of Spokane County Utilities.

Rob confirmed that the contract with Sound Resolutions for Phase 4 facilitation and plan writing work is signed. The Phase 4 grant agreement is almost ready to sign – it will be signed in early to mid January when the one year clock will start.

Joint WRIA meeting on water issues / storage on West Plains set for February 1, 2007. The location will be announced later. Dave Jones gave a brief history of water use in the area.

Lloyd stated that the City of Spokane is conducting a study on the feasibility of using reclaimed water for public land irrigation.

Phase IV direction: Lloyd reported on a question that came up at the November meeting. The final recommendation the Avista workgroup had for aesthetic flows through the north channel of the Spokane River through Riverfront Park was 200 cfs with channel modifications that would make the flow look like 300 to 500 cfs does now. Most, but not all, workgroup members agreed to this recommendation which meant it was set to the side – but it is not dead

The Planning Unit continued with 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.

Public Comment: Ty mentioned that the SAJB will be sending out an RFQ in January for a contractor to replace Julia McHugh as the Program Director.

Wrap Up: There will be no steering committee meeting in January but they will meet February 7 from 9 to 11. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Spokane County Conservation District. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.