

FINAL
Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
January 24, 2007

Location: Lakeside High School Library, Nine Mile Falls, WA.

Planning Unit members and guests recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

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| Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane | Mimi Wainwright, WA State Dept. of Ecology |
| Bill Gilmour, Spokane County | Rob Lindsay, Spokane County |
| Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County Planning | Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe |
| Albert Tripp, City of Airway Heights | Hank Nelson, Avista Corporation |
| Judy Kaufman, Spokane Fly Fishers | Fran Bessermin, Lake Spokane Protection Assoc. |
| Jerry Warner, Palisades Neighborhood | Bea Lackaff, Citizen |
| Bruce Smith, Landowner | Cynthia Carlstad, Tetra Tech/KCM |
| Jonathon Rudders, GeoEngineers | Lynn Wells, Riverside State Park Advisory |
| Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors and Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association | |

Call to Order

Bill Gilmour opened the meeting as the facilitator at 6:00 pm. Attendees introduced themselves and the interest / organization they represent. Bill requested that each attendee complete the sign-in sheet.

Review and Approve November 14, 2006 Meeting Summary

The draft November 14, 2006 WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting summary was reviewed page by page and was accepted as final with no changes. The final summaries will be posted on the County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Public Comment

Mimi notified the group that:

1. The Terry Husseman grant, a \$50,000 grant for water quality implementation projects, is open for applications until March 16, 2007; and,
2. Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program has called for projects and that Watershed Planning Units rank high. Ecology likes to know about projects that need funding by about February 15, 2007.

Bill passed around the Water Quality Work Group (WQWG) sign-sheet and attached copies of the Terry Husseman grant handout. Bill said that the WQWG will be addressing Terry Husseman grant at their first meeting.

Bill noted that he, Rob Lindsay, Reanette Boese, Cynthia Carlstad and Bryony Stasney worked this morning on a long-range plan for WRIA 54 that outlines the schedules for the three supplemental projects (Instream Flow, Storage and Water Quality) and the Phase III work. The draft schedule indicates a very busy 2007. This schedule will likely be provided to the Planning Unit to help Planning Unit members pick and choose what they want to be involved in.

Bill noted that the draft instream flow report was due originally on January 8, 2007. Due to work load, the project has been delayed about a month. The draft report will be available on February 14, 2007. There will also be a series of meetings at the end of February to present and discuss the draft instream flow results.

Bill informed the group that this will be his last WRIA 54 meeting and that he has resigned from Spokane County and will be taking a position as Solid Waste Lead with Ecology in Yakima. Bill thanked the group for a very challenging and educational experience in the WRIA process.

Distribution of Final Phase II, Level 1 Report

Bill invited those present to take a copy of the final report. There are 50 copies of the report and about 35 active Planning Unit members.

WRIA 54 Phase III Application Status

Mimi said that all the Watershed Planning applications go through Ecology's water management team. However, the Monday meeting (where the WRIA 54 Phase III application would have been discussed) was cancelled. Mimi said that she would work outside the group to get approval within Ecology. Mimi confirmed that it is OK to overlap Phase II and Phase III work.

Bill noted that, based on the planning done this morning, Phase III is likely to kick-off in March this year.

Recommendation for the TetraTech and Golder Associates Inc. Team to Perform the WRIA 54 Phase III Work

The WRIA 54 Steering Committee has recommended TetraTech and Golder team to provide Phase III services. Bill asked if anyone had any concerns. No one present responded with concerns. The Planning Unit therefore agreed by consensus to retain the TetraTech and Golder team for Phase III. Cynthia clarified that this team also includes all the firms that teamed with TetraTech for the Phase II work.

Presentation of Draft WRIA 54 Detailed Multi-Purpose Storage Scope of Work

Cynthia informed the group that the first task of the storage work involves detailed scoping for the project. The handout provides the draft detailed scope of work developed by the TetraTech team with guidance from the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group (MSG) for review and approval by the Planning Unit. This draft detailed scope of work has been approved by Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group and the Steering Committee.

The storage supplemental project is an opportunity for Planning Units to do something concrete and positive in terms of utilizing storage to improve water management in the watershed. The requirements of the storage supplemental work are wide-ranging and give the Planning Unit quite a bit of latitude in terms of scope.

There are many ways of storing water, other than the traditional storage of water in a reservoir behind a dam. These include underground storage as well as other methods for surface water storage. Wetlands restoration may be considered a storage project in the form of mitigation for water withdrawals elsewhere. Riparian projects, water conservation and water reclamation and reuse are also commonly considered in water storage studies.

The Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group asked for a focused effort on couple of areas. The Work Group also did not want to lose sight of WRIA-wide opportunities or problems that should be covered by this project. The scope therefore includes two tasks: Task 3.1 – WRIA-Wide Screening; and, Task 3.2 – Assessment of Water Storage Options for West Plains and Suncrest – Tumtum Study Areas. Cynthia provided a map with an approximate outline of these two study areas. These two regions were identified in the Phase II, Level 1 work and by the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group as areas where it looks as if there will be challenges to meet future water needs. Cynthia views this work as an assessment of the role that storage can play in meeting future water needs in these areas.

The West Plains study area includes, Airway Heights, Fairchild Air Force Base as well as the Deep Creek and Coulee Creek drainages. The Suncrest – Tumtum study areas was selected to focus efforts where a lot of development is expected to occur in the future along the Spokane River to the Long Lake Dam.

Mimi asked Cynthia if she planned to put timelines and deliverables into the detailed scope of work. Cynthia said that this is already built into the grant scope of work. A draft and a final report is planned with the draft report available in early May 2007 with the May Planning Unit meeting scheduled as a public meeting to present

the draft report. After a two month comment period, the final report is due to be available in September 2007. Once this detailed scope is approved it will be folded into the grant scope of work.

Q: Mimi noted that on the second page, third bullet, the draft scope says, "Limited additional research." What are you thinking?

A: For things that come up. For example, I think that we should include some evaluation of the Columbia River Water Management Program and relevance to WRIA 54. There is also some interest in storage projects in Chamokane Creek.

Q: Mimi asked if the group would be interested in hearing a presentation on the Columbia River Water Management Initiative.

A: Yes. Bill said that there was quite a bit of interest expressed at WRIA 54's November 2006 meeting.

Q: Has the group or Spokane County reviewed and commented on the Columbia Snake River Irrigators Voluntary Regional Agreement?

A: Bill said no.

Mimi said that Ecology has gone out for consultations but the 30-day public comment period has not started. If the group is interested in hearing a presentation on the Columbia River Water Management Program and the Columbia Snake River Irrigators Voluntary Regional Agreement, Mimi said she could arrange it. Bill said that the Planning Unit meetings have been scheduled to cover requirements of Phase II and Phase III up until August 2007. Mimi said that Ecology has already hosted four public meetings to present and discuss this information. Information is available on Ecology's website. This process will be looking to storage within the tributaries to the Columbia to provide water for some new water rights and to convert some current interruptible water rights to continuous water rights.

Cynthia said that she and Jon Rudders feel that there is a need to check in with the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group at various points in the study. We have heard from the Planning Unit that they want resources focused on options that will likely amount to something rather than options that are too expensive or with overly rigorous permitting. We expect to convene the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group after a month to six weeks of starting the project.

Q: Why did you and the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group decide not to include Chamokane Creek as one of the study areas?

A: This was a weaker contender. However it is getting some pressure from residential development. The Spokane Tribe holds large irrigation water rights and the basin is closed to new water rights appropriations. However, it is unclear whether the lower aquifer in upper Chamokane Creek is closed or not. There are some options that could be considered in terms of the lower aquifer which is not included in the federal adjudication.

Rob Lindsay noted that on February 1 there will be a multi-WRIA public meeting to address the issue of increasing population, water needs and a general lack of water supply across the West Plains area (which includes the WRIA 54 focus study area). This meeting will be at Eastern Washington University from 1 – 4 pm. It promises to be a very informative meeting, covering a land area that includes portions of WRIA 56 (Hangman / Latah Creek), WRIA 34 (Palouse), WRIA 43 (Upper Crab Creek) and WRIA 54 (Lower Spokane). This water supply issue was largely unaddressed in existing work. So, it falls on this group to address this issue.

Rob commented that he is hopeful that we can look beyond the WRIA boundaries and include Medical Lake and other communities. Mimi confirmed that the grant does allow areas outside the WRIA boundary to be considered.

Q: Looking at the map, there does not seem to be a differentiation between intermittent and perennial streams. This makes the area look as if there is more water available than I believe actually is. Maybe consider using dotted lines.

A: You are right. This level of detail is not included on this map.

Lloyd commented, in response to Rob's request to extend the West Plains Study Area boundaries south to include Medical Lake and other communities, that it is important to focus efforts within WRIA 54 because of our limited available resources. Lloyd said that he would like the level of detail and the scope of the study areas, if extended beyond the WRIA boundaries, to be addressed by the Multi-Purpose Storage Work Group. Rob agreed.

Rob said that he will be approaching WRIA 56 and WRIA 34 to bear in mind that the West Plains area also occurs within their watersheds. WRIA 34 is still putting their Plan together. WRIA 56 is working on their Detailed Implementation Plan. Rob said that he hopes that this issue can be identified in plans developed by WRIs 56, 34 and 54, to send a stronger message to the legislature.

Presentation by Mr. Albert Tripp on "Proposed Airway Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant"

Albert thanked the group for the opportunity to present an overview of the history, where we are today with the proposed wastewater treatment plant, the progress to-date on getting the project funded and timelines for the future.

Airway Heights was like many other Eastern Washington communities, i.e. unsewered or with a variety of residential and commercial units on separate septic systems. In 1994 the Airway Heights Correctional Facility located in the area. This, in conjunction with a grant to extend the sewer interceptor from the City of Spokane, brought sewer to the West Plains. This resulted in timely control of nitrate levels in groundwater wells. Airway Heights did have to shut down Well #3 due to elevated nitrates and high cost to remove nitrate from the groundwater at this well. More recently, elevated nitrates have been monitored at Airway Heights Wells #1 and #4. Washington State Department of Health would like to see Airway Heights consider options such as blending water with other sources low in nitrate to make sure that the water is safe to drink.

In 1995, the City began looking at existing collection systems. In 2002, the City Engineer considered our Comprehensive Water System Plan in conjunction with a water treatment plant feasibility study to determine if it would be feasible for the City to construct a wastewater treatment facility. The feasibility study indicated it would be in the best interest of the City of Airway Heights to construct a wastewater treatment facility.

In 2006, the City began working on a wastewater treatment facility plan. We looked at three different sites with the City of Airway Heights, comparing environmental issues and permitting constraints. We decided on the site south of 21st Avenue, bordered by McFarlane on the south and Lawson to the west and Russell to the east. We also looked at alternatives such as: 1) obtaining additional capacity from the City of Spokane (where our wastewater is currently piped); and, 2) piping our waste stream to the City of Medical Lake and piping reclaimed water back to the City of Airway Heights.

The site is about 80 acres. Part of the plan includes reuse of water after it has been infiltrated into a palaeochannel and treated to Class A standards. Other components include a collection system for the site, a 1MGD facility (as phase one) which is planned for upgrade to a 1.5 MGD facility in phase two by about 2012-2014 and systems to allow reclaimed water to be provided to various users. The site will be sized considering the growth expected over the next 20 years.

The cost associated with this plan is approximately \$32 Million. We have received \$9.5 Million to date for preconstruction and construction from the State's public works trust fund and SRF.

The 50% design contract was awarded to Central West Engineering in August 2006. 50% of this contract is scheduled to be complete by May 2007. Airway Heights will then complete the 50% design and approach the State's revolving fund and other agencies for the balance of the construction dollars. Airway Heights is about \$11Million into the project with a total project cost of about \$32Million. We are planning to start construction in early 2009 and believe it will be about 18 months before the facility is complete.

Q: I heard you say that you plan to infiltrate treated wastewater in the vicinity of Airway Heights Well SO1. Is Well SO1 completed in the palaeochannel?

A: Yes, in the palaeochannel. Residency time between the infiltration site and the well will be an issue. We are also considering a site north of SO2. This area comprises a large pit and is being considered for a million gallon storage reservoir for reclaimed water.

Q: How deep are the wells and how much ground do you have to infiltrate?

A: Well #1 is 192 feet deep and Well #2 is 200 feet deep.

Q: Is there a length of time over which the ground will infiltrate without getting saturated with contaminants?

A: It is unknown, but something we are working on with Washington State Department of Health.

Q: Have you initiated discussions with Washington State Department of Health or Ecology with respect to the reclamation plan? What big issues do you see the City needing to address?

A: We have had some limited discussions with Ecology.

Q: If you were unable to reclaim the water, would Plan B be discharge to the river?

A: Plan B does involve considering the storage reservoir.

Q: Is the proposed site owned by the City.

A: It is. It was purchased in 2005.

Q: Is the well in the area that you are planning the treatment plant drawing from 800 feet. Do you feel this source is protected because it is so much deeper than surface infiltration?

A: Health is concerned that, while Class A water contains minimal contaminants, there is the potential that there may be a problem over time. Wells in the area are about 200 feet deep.

Q: How will this facility affect the rate payers and commercial tax base?

A: Initially, the rates to go up. However, compared to using a regional facility, the option for the City to own and operate the plant is ultimately cheaper over time.

Q: Is the City of Airway Heights currently sending between 400,000 and 500,000 GPD to the City of Spokane's Wastewater Treatment Facility?

A: Yes, this is the approximate current range.

The group thanked Albert for his presentation.

Public Comment

Lloyd Brewer notified the group that the Washington Citizens Advisory Committee is meeting on January 31, 2007, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Spokane Valley Hospital, 12606 E Mission Ave, on the first floor of Outpatient Education center. The Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service will be talking about clean up in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The Washington State Departments of Health and Ecology will also be talking about health advisories in the Spokane River.

Rob Lindsay announced that the WRIA 54 Ecology lead will be joining Ecology on February 1, 2007. Her name is Sarah Hunt. She currently works in the stormwater group at Spokane County. Sarah has almost 20

years of experience working in the office of the Governor in Alaska and with the Alaska Department of Lands. She is an effective communicator and really understands government processes.

Lloyd said that he has appreciated Bill's efforts in this endeavor. The group thanked Bill with a round of applause.

General Schedule Announcements

The following meetings are scheduled:

- The WRIA collaboration meeting to discuss water resources across the West Plains is scheduled February 1, 1 – 4 pm at the Music Recital Hall, Eastern Washington University, Cheney
- The next WRIA 54 Steering Committee is scheduled for Wednesday February 14, 2007, 10 am – noon at the Spokane County Public Works Building, Conference Room 4A, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA 99260. This meeting is open to everyone.
- On February 27, 2007, 1 – 4 pm, the Instream Flow Technical Team (IFTT) will meet to discuss the study results. This meeting is scheduled at the Spokane County Public Works Building, Conference Room 2B, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA 99260.
- A Public Meeting is scheduled for 1- 4 pm, February 28, 2007 at the Airway Heights Community Center for presentation of the Instream Flow draft report. This will be a collaborative meeting with WRIA 57.
- A WRIA 54 Water Quality Work Group meeting was scheduled for February 14, 2007, 1 - 3 pm at the Spokane County Public Works Building, Conference Room 4A, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA 99260. A preliminary grant application will be discussed, including Phase II obligations and projects.

Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

The next Planning Unit meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2007, 10:00 am – noon at the Airway Heights Community Center. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.