Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
October 3, 2007

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:
Ty Wick, SAJB
Susan McGeorge, Whitworth Water
Sara Hunt, Dept of Ecology
Claudia Crawford, Whitworth Water
Rick Noll, Sp Co Conservation Dist
Howard Rowley, Horse Shoe Lake
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Reanette Boese, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Kris Graf, City of Spokane Water Dept
Todd Henry, Vera Water & Power
Bruce Howard, Avista

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions

Guest Present: Ben Bonkowski, Dept of Ecology, Water Resources
Fred Rajala, Dept of Ecology, Water Resources
Janet Rajala, Dept of Ecology, Water Resources
Jamie Short, Dept of Ecology
Doug Rider, Spokane Co Water Conservancy Board

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for September 19, 2007 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Jeff Storms reported the committee will have two meetings in October.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: Reanette reported the committee met with the facilitator last Tuesday. The next meeting on Tuesday October 23, 2007 will be the time for committee members to make recommendations for the Spokane River on minimum instream flow amounts, areas that will be effected, and control points.

Conservation: Rob Lindsay reported on the Bi-State Aquifer meeting held in Post Falls last week. He felt the meeting started dialogue between communities and the Aquifer Protection Group.

Ty Wick commented that Airway Heights was going to restrict watering times for conservation but that it was different than the restricted times others in the area are using. He recommends that there should be a consistent time for restrictions in the region so that when people move from one area to another it will be the same.

Grants: Sara Hunt reported that in the Operating and Maintenance Budget Little Spokane River Gauging would receive $108,000. Capital projects: Saltese Flats Restoration was approved for $225,000, Wetlands Restoration $175,000 and re-establishing the Elk gauge with real time equipment would receive $13,000. Rick Noll reported that the USGS is requesting more than a 2 year funding commitment for this gauge. It will be discussed further at a future meeting.
Dept of Ecology Pre-Adjudication Presentation
Ben Bonkowski, Fred Rajala and Janet Rajala from the Dept. of Ecology gave a briefing on the work they are compiling for pre-adjudication. They are checking that the information in the current database matches the information on the papers on file. They are also mapping where the paper says the water rights are without ground checking. The Department of Ecology will make a decision on whether to ask the legislature for money for adjudication in the summer of 2008 based on many factors. They will give another update to the Planning Unit after the first of the year.

Detailed Implementation Plan: The Planning Unit reviewed and discussed the timing and funding of the immediate actions on the Detailed Implementation Plan starting with Section V through Section VIII. Susan Gulick requested that you have all comments on the Detailed Implementation Plan to her by Friday, October 12, 2007. Calls will be made this week again to those that have not returned their surveys on Inchoate Water Rights.

Other Issues/Announcements:
Jeff Storms asked about the status of a review of the Holman v Griffith ruling on the Little Spokane River. In order for this group to get a review we might need a new recommendation in the Plan and some funding.

Reanette presented a draft letter for the Planning Unit members to send comments on the Amendments of the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan. She will also use this draft to send comments on behalf of WIRA 55/57, Watershed Implementation Team as a group.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

October 17, 2007   9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   Conservation District Conference Room

November 7, 2007   9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   Chattaroy Fire Station