

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
February 20, 2008

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>	Kris Graf, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>
Walt Edelen, <i>Sp Co Conservation Dist</i>	Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>
Tim Vore, <i>Avista Utilities</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>
Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Tavis Schmidt, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>
Brian Walker, <i>The Lands Council</i>	

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Guest Present: Dale Gill, *Little Spokane River Private Property Owner*
Brian Bolles, *Pend Oreille Conservation District, WRIA 62*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for January 16, 2008 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Mike Lithgow reported at the last meeting Ken Merrill from Department of Ecology gave a presentation on the condition of the West Branch lakes. The group also discussed funding sources in order for them to keep their facilitator, Bryony Stasney, for 2008.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: Rob Lindsay reported at their last meeting in January with the facilitator, Bob Wheeler, they had a very productive discussion on the stake holder positions on recommended flows, which varied immensely. Current funding covers only two more meetings. The next meeting will be Tuesday February 26, 2008. Any recommendations from this committee will be sent to this WIT for consideration.

Conservation: Reanette reported the County had a booth at the Tree, Turf, Landscape Conference and 20 interested parties completed forms requesting information about future classes on irrigation efficiency and xeriscaping. Spokane County is working on a program for rebates for indoor conservation equipment such as low flow toilets, showerheads, etc.

APC Meeting: Lloyd Brewer reported that the Regional Dialogue of elected officials has two sub-committees, Water Quality and Water Quantity. They will have three meetings this year. The officials have scheduled a meeting for April 17, 2008 at the City of Spokane Library. Water Quality issues will be taken back to regional meetings and the educational sub-committee will coordinate education across lines.

Grants: Rob Lindsay reported that the Saltese Flats Restoration RFQ and the Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study RFQ are almost ready for release.

Spokane County will submit a grant amendment to Department of Ecology to use remaining money from first year Phase IV on projects for this year. A copy of the draft amendment was passed out.

Sara Hunt will convey to Department of Ecology that the Watershed Planning Unit supports the West Branch using their remaining \$15,000 that had been set aside for the beaver tube replacement project for the facilitator expenses for April through September 2008.

Detailed Implementation Plan: The consensus vote to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan was unanimous with one abstention; Tavis Schmidt, City of Spokane Valley.

Memorandum of Agreement: Lloyd Brewer passed out copies of the draft final Memorandum of Agreement for comment. The final, which will be distributed by the end of February with signature blocks to be signed, will need to be sent back to Reanette by the end of March.

Upcoming Meetings:

Columbia River Water Management Program March 13, 2008 Moses Lake, WA
County Commissioners will be meeting in the morning and the Watershed Planners in the afternoon.
Sara Hunt will send the agenda.

Other Issues/Announcements:

Tim Vore reported that the snowpack for the Spokane Basin is only 109% of normal. Even though this winter seemed to have a lot of snow there could be a water problem later this year if the snow pack melts rapidly.

The Terry Husseman Grant application form was passed out and applications are due by March 14, 2008. Walt Edelen, Spokane County Conservation District reported that they are applying for \$20,000 for a project along Liberty Lake's shoreline to remove bulkheads and restore shoreline to natural conditions. The WIT is supportive of SCCD and will write a letter of support. Dale Gill, Little Spokane River Property Owner would like to apply for \$326 to add rocks for ripple area and raise water 6" to wetlands for the natural plants and fish in that area on his property. Spokane County will look at Dale Gill's project to determine if they can recommend support for this project. The West Branch committee and the City of Spokane may also apply for Husseman grants.

The state water quality impairment 303(d) list is out for review. Comments are due March 21.

Sara Hunt announced several upcoming releases. The section 401 certification draft for the Avista dam relicense should be released March 17. The Spokane River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL responsiveness summary should also be out March 17. The NPDES for dischargers are due in mid April.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

Meetings will be one meeting per month, tentatively the third Wednesday of each month. There are 8-10 Planning Unit Members interested in participating in the conference calls between meeting dates – tentatively the first Wednesday of the month. The agenda will be sent to everyone so they can ask to be included in the conference call.

March 19, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Chattaroy Fire Station

April 2, 2008 Meeting or Conference call, to be determined.