

FINAL
Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
February 27, 2008

Location: Airway Heights Community Center, Airway Heights, WA.

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

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County	Sara Hunt, WA State Dept. of Ecology
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	William Shelton, Fairchild Air Force Base
Hank Nelson, Avista Corporation	Charlie Peterson, Spokane County Conservation District
Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County Planning	Craig Volosing, Landowner and Palisades Neighborhood
Stan Miller, Citizen	Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Cynthia Carlstad, TetraTech	Bryony Stasney, Golder Associates Inc.
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors	and Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association

Call to Order

Bryony opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Attendees introduced themselves. Bryony requested that each attendee complete the sign-in sheet.

Review and Approve January 2008 Meeting Summary

The Planning Unit reviewed the draft January 23, 2007 WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting summary. Those present approved the summary without any changes. The final summary will be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Public Comment

Jim DeGraffenreid noted that Lincoln County is starting the watershed planning process in WRIA 53.

Bryony provided copies of two letters sent to Ecology's Columbia River Water Management Program liaison (dated January 30, 2008) from the WRIA 55/57 Planning Unit to support the Lands Council and WSU pre-applications for natural storage and urban conservation and SVRP aquifer storage and recovery, respectively. Sara noted that Ecology will review pre-applications and help applicants move on to the application phase, if the applications are eligible for funding. The applicants may present on their proposed projects to the WRIA 54 Planning Unit. Applications will also be available for review and comment by the WRIA 54 Planning Unit.

Sara Hunt made the following announcements:

- The state water quality assessment and 303(d) list is out for review. Comments are due by March 21. There are additional Category 5 listings for lead and dioxin on the Spokane River, which means that water quality clean up plans may be needed for these listings.
- Ecology will release the responsiveness summary / revised dissolved oxygen TMDL around March 17.
- The NPDES permits for the Spokane River dischargers are scheduled to be released around April 1 for public comment.

Water Quality Work Group (WQWG) Update

Cynthia noted that the team is accepting comments on the draft Supplemental Water Quality Assessment Report until February 29. The most substantive comment received to date is from Spokane County Stormwater Program requesting that the West Plains stormwater project be documented.

Q: Lloyd noted that the City of Spokane monitoring is not included. Bill Rickard is the City's contact for monitoring information

A: Cynthia thanked Lloyd and said that the team will be including information on City of Spokane and Spokane

County monitoring.

Q: Craig asked if there is adequate documentation of water quality monitoring from the other entities in WRIA 54, such as Airway Heights and Medical Lake.

A: Cynthia said that she is not aware that other entities are conducting monitoring outside of what would be classified as water supply and wastewater facilities compliance monitoring. Cynthia said that compliance monitoring is not normally included in a watershed planning Supplemental Water Quality Assessment Report. Rob said that he will contact Doug Ross to see if Medical Lake does any sampling in Deep Creek to support their reclaimed water discharge program. Lloyd said that Airway Heights may have some monitoring programs related to their water reuse/reclamation project. Cynthia noted that the team would document this information in the QAPP for the palaeochannel monitoring project. Cynthia said that she will review monitoring projects being conducted by other entities in WRIA 54, such as Airway Heights and Medical Lake. Cynthia said that she would not include monitoring associated with water supply and wastewater facilities compliance monitoring. Lloyd said that the City of Spokane monitoring he was referring to is for water supply and wastewater compliance so it might not be relevant to the WRIA 54 Water Quality Supplemental Report.

Cynthia provided a presentation to update the Planning Unit on the WQWG. A copy of the presentation will be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>. Cynthia noted that redundancies with other work groups will be maintained for now and will be addressed as the draft Watershed Plan is compiled.

WRIA 54 Water Quality Goals

1. Identify and address water quality issues within WRIA 54, recognizing that select issues and needs are currently being addressed through separate programs/processes.
2. The WRIA 54 Planning Unit will coordinate with separate ongoing programs/processes that relate to water quality

WRIA 54 Water Quality Objectives

- Support acquisition of data needed to assess water quality in prioritized areas of WRIA 54.
- Management recommendations should be aimed at the goal of meeting State and Tribal Water Quality Standards.
- Downstream water quality impacts will be considered when evaluating land use and natural resource management.
- Nonpoint source pollution will be identified and reduced through voluntary measures such as best management practices and applicable regulatory requirements.
- Protect riparian function.
- Protect wetland water quality function.

Water Quality Issues Currently Being Addressed through Approved / Completed Water Clean-Up Plans

- Category 4A, 303(d) listings – have an approved TMDL in place and are actively being implemented.

Water Quality Issues Currently Being Addressed through Clean-Up Plans that are Under Development

- Category 5, 303(d) listings – polluted waters that require a TMDL.

Proposed Recommendations

- The WQWG recommends that the WRIA 54 Planning Unit stay informed with these processes including the Spokane River TMDL Collaboration activities.
- Develop and implement monitoring program to address non-point source impacts from immediate Lake Spokane watersheds (started in the Phase 2 Supplemental Water Quality Assessment project as the QAPP for Lake Spokane monitoring).
- Provide support for monitoring programs associated with these water cleanup programs.

Water Quality Issues Addressed through other Plans and Processes

- FERC and 401 Certification are addressing Total Dissolved Gas and Dissolved Oxygen issues
- Superfund is addressing mine waste problems from Midnite Mine.
- Lake Roosevelt programs addressing water quality problems in Spokane Arm.

Proposed Recommendation

- WRIA 54 Watershed Plan to stay informed and take action as appropriate

Water Quality Issue: Lack of Data/Complete Understanding about Paleochannels

Proposed Recommendation

- Develop and implement monitoring program to provide necessary data and information about paleochannels (started in the Phase 2 Supplemental Water Quality Assessment project as the QAPP for West Plains palaeochannel monitoring).

Water Quality Issue: Numerous Problems Identified in Chamokane Creek Watershed

Proposed Recommendation

- Support implementation of recommendations in Chamokane Creek Watershed Plan (Stevens County Conservation District, 2000).

Charlie Kessler noted that the Stevens County Conservation District did not receive grant funding from Ecology to implement the Chamokane Creek Watershed Plan.

Water Quality Issue: Little Existing Information about Water Quality and Riparian Conditions in WRIA 54 Tributaries

Proposed Recommendations

- Support development and implementation of water quality monitoring programs, focusing on Deep, Coulee, Mill and Spring Creek subbasins.
- Support Spokane Tribe's ongoing water resources monitoring programs.
- Support assessment work on riparian and wetland condition and needs in WRIA 54 tributaries

Water Quality Issue: Little Existing Information about Potential Non-Point Source Pollution Impacts in WRIA 54 Subbasins

Proposed Recommendations

- Support Non-Point Source Assessment in prioritized WRIA 54 subbasins: Deep, Coulee, Spring, Little Chamokane, Mill, other Spokane Reservation subbasins.

Cynthia noted that she will be preparing a draft water quality issue paper for review by the WQWG at their next meeting.

Land Use Work Group Update

Bryony provided a presentation to update the Planning Unit on the February 21, LUWG. A copy of the presentation will be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Goals

- Strive for consistency and coordination between the WRIA 54 Watershed Plan and local land use plans and development regulations.
- Strive for sustainable land use development.
- Coordinate water availability and areas of development.
- Support property owners' rights, including legal access to water – *will be confirmed at next meeting.*

Information

- Under GMA all counties are required to:
 - Designate and protect wetlands, frequently flooded areas and other critical areas.

- Designate farm lands, forest lands, and other natural resource areas of long term significance.
- Determine that new residential subdivisions have appropriate provisions for public services and facilities.
- Spokane County and Stevens County are “fully planning” under GMA and are therefore required to designate urban areas. Lincoln County is not a “fully planning” GMA County (and is not required to designate urban areas).
- Incorporated municipalities also plan under GMA (if the County in which the City is located is fully planning).

Issues

These issues have been worked on by the LUWG:

- There is a need for better connection between land use regulations and water availability.
- There is a need for better connection between land use planning and water supply planning.
- There is a need to consider the impacts of land development (e.g., shoreline development, timber harvest, vegetation removal for land development, impact to wetlands and to and from stormwater / wastewater systems) on water quantity, water quality and habitat.

These issues will be addressed at the next LUWG meeting:

- There is a need to protect rural land uses, including the ability to develop to non-urban densities without requiring a connection to public water if public water is not available in a reasonable and timely manner and where proposed density is supported by water availability – *will be confirmed at next meeting*.
- There is a need to maintain and enhance sustainable agriculture through growth management and land use planning.
- There is a need to provide public access to important water related recreation areas.
- There is a need to evaluate beaver activities and land use impacts.

Possible Solutions

Land Use Planning

1. Integrate WRIA 54 water resources and supply information into land use planning.
2. Consider areas of strained water resources through CAO / water supply overlay zones.
3. Utilize plat conditions and/or covenants to require xeriscaping in areas of strained water supply.
4. Evaluate impact of vesting and renewal / extensions.
5. Add demonstration of water supply as condition for a certificate of exemption (C of E) in Spokane County, or limit C of E in some way.
6. Require project proponent to show sufficient water and assess impairment for comp plan amendments, zoning changes, platting.
7. Encourage comment on comp plan / land use regulation changes and SMP updates.
8. Employ tools / technologies that coordinate water availability and development in rural lands.
9. Improve coordination between Ecology and land use regulators on development permitting (NPDES permits for construction).

Water System Planning

1. Update Spokane County Coordinated Water System Plan and encourage water purveyors to participate.
2. Encourage water purveyors to participate in local land use planning.
3. Ecology review water system plans (*will check with Ecology and WDOH on this*).
4. Encourage completion of water system plans in WRIA 54 (*will check with WDOH on this*).

Sewer / Stormwater Planning

1. Encourage participation in City and County sewer and stormwater planning.
2. Recommend Cities, Counties, WDOH, Ecology and health districts address inadequate wastewater and stormwater systems.

Studies / Monitoring

1. Pursue funding to conduct water resources studies.
2. Conduct build-out analyses for subbasins.
3. Develop water supply and demand forecasts.
4. Support Ecology's ambient groundwater monitoring program and consider West Plains.

Funding

1. Recommend that Legislature fund local governments to consider water supply as component of land use planning.
2. Recommend that Legislature fund ambient groundwater monitoring.
3. WDOH provide funds for Spokane County Coordinated Water System Plan update.

Education

1. Education for developers and real estate groups on water issues.

The next Land Use Work Group meeting is scheduled for Friday March 21, 1:30 – 4 pm, Spokane County Public Works building, Conference Rm. 4A.

Water Management Work Group Update

Bryony presented a summary of the February 13, 2008 WMWG meeting. A copy of the presentation will be available at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Goals

- Balance the needs of instream and out of stream uses.
- Strive for water availability in the future to protect quality of life, healthy economy, and a healthy environment.
- Promote sustainable use of water resources.
- Strive for adequate laws and regulations that are dictated by reality and that support sustainable management of water resources.
- Coordinate water availability and areas of development.

WRIA 54 Water Supply Information

- Future consumptive water needs expected to increase by about 57% by 2025.
- Increase likely to be focused in two areas:
 - West Plains
 - Along the Spokane River, downstream of the City of Spokane (i.e., Suncrest)
- City of Spokane infrastructure will extend to Craig Road and Hwy 902.
- West Plains geophysics study starting in 2008.
- Future municipal and domestic water needs may be considered by the WRIA 54 and WRIA 57 ISF work group via a reservation – likely to apply only to groundwater withdrawn from SVRP aquifer.
- On-going study in the Chamokane watershed to evaluate impact of de-minimus uses.
- Spokane Arm water systems (i.e., in Lincoln County) unable to get water rights through Ecology.

Water Supply Issues

The WMWG has identified the following issues (i.e., concerns) with water supply in WRIA 54:

- There is a need to resolve Fairchild AFB's water rights concerns. *This issue may be removed since FAFB is currently resolving their concerns. FAFB will update the WRIA 54 planning Unit in July 2008.*
- Lack of coordinated water supply planning and infrastructure development is creating a fragmented approach to meeting current and future water needs in the West Plains.
- West Plains purveyors are having difficulty providing water to customers and aquifers are showing signs of strain.

- There is a need to provide water for current and future municipal and domestic needs.
- The Wellpinit water system is in need of additional water sources.

Brian noted that the Ford and Martha Boardman water systems may also require new sources.

Possible Solutions for Water Supply Issues

The following lists the potential solutions identified by the WMWG under various categories. These potential solutions will be evaluated and ranked by the Planning Unit.

Fairchild Air Force Base

FAFB will revisit need for recommendations in the Watershed Plan in July 2008.

WRIA-wide

1. Promote growth connected to sustainable use of resources (*move to goals*).
2. Consider covenants on lot deeds that require hook up in a timely and reasonable manner to water systems if and when water system service becomes available.
3. Water conservation, reclamation and reuse (*topic for March WMWG*).
4. Permit exempt wells in more remote subbasins / subbasins with low water use. Evaluation of larger water uses.
5. Proactively address adverse impacts of permit exempt wells (via CARAs, water overlays) – *this has some duplication with land use possible solutions*.
6. Consider storage.
7. Consider water banking, water trusts, leasing and acquisition.

West Plains

1. Water purveyors form collaborative organization (West Plains Joint Board).
2. Funding to update Spokane County Coordinated Water System Plan.
3. Designate groundwater management area.
4. Improve / increase connectivity between water systems.
5. Evaluate transfer of water from the SVRP aquifer in light of ongoing studies / processes.
6. Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).

Lloyd noted that instead of developing a new West Plains Joint Board it may be worth considering expanding the scope of the current Spokane Aquifer Joint Board since water supply may be provided to the West Plains area from sources on the SVRP aquifer.

Suncrest

1. ASR / enhanced recharge.

Wellpinit

1. Hydrogeologic study (incl. sw/gw connectivity) for Little Chamokane subbasin.
2. Evaluate impact of new groundwater withdrawals in the Little Chamokane subbasin on flows of Little Chamokane Creek.

Brian confirmed that an instream flow assessment has not been conducted for the Little Chamokane subbasin.

Spokane Arm

1. Consider possible avenues for potential water use permits through Tribal reserve water rights.

Brian noted that water storage is a possible solution for water supply concerns in the Chamokane subbasin. Bryony said that water storage has been discussed in previous WMWG meetings.

The next Water Management Work Group meeting is scheduled for Friday March 21, 9 - noon, Spokane County Public Works building, Conference Rm. 4A. Bryony said that an additional meeting in April may be needed.

Instream Flow Update

Cynthia noted that a WRIA 54 Instream Flow Work group will start up in April. Mike Hermanson noted that the WRIA 55/57 and 54 instream flow work group has met twice prior to this meeting. Mike provided a presentation to update the Planning Unit. A copy of the presentation will be available at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Presentation Overview

- Flow Proposals
- Control Point Recommendation
- Grant Status
- Future work

Flow Proposals for Spokane Gage

	<u>State</u>	<u>City of Spokane</u>	<u>Environmental & Recreation Caucus</u>
<u>Jan. 1 – April 1</u>	<u>1,100 cfs</u>	<u>800 cfs</u>	
<u>April 1 – June 15</u>	<u>3,000 cfs</u>	<u>1,500 cfs</u>	
<u>June 15 – Sept. 30</u>	<u>850 cfs</u>	<u>425 cfs</u>	<u>1,350 cfs</u>
<u>Oct. 1 – Dec. 31</u>	<u>1,100 cfs</u>	<u>550 cfs</u>	

600 cfs minimum was also proposed by Vera Water and Power.

Control Point Recommendation

- Barker Rd. Gage to regulate surface water withdrawal between State line and Sullivan Rd.
- Spokane Gage to regulate surface water flows from Sullivan to Nine Mile HED and groundwater.
- Group requested Ecology propose an area where groundwater will be regulated by flows at Spokane Gage.
- In the interim the group recommended the WRIA 57 boundary as the groundwater boundary. The SVRP aquifer boundary was considered. The issue of the interim boundary in WRIA 54 was not resolved.
- Ecology will address the delineation between groundwater in the SVRP that flows towards the Little Spokane River versus the Spokane River.

Grant Status

- Enough budget remaining for one facilitated meeting and preparation of a Recommendation Memo (required grant deliverable).
- Approximately \$9,000 in additional funding potentially available to the group to continue work.

Future Work

- No work group meeting in March to allow time to develop Recommendation Memo and provide draft to

work group for consideration.

- Meeting in April to finalize memo, which will include agreements, differences/perspectives, and rationales.
- Apply for funding to plan and hold a regional meeting to educate elected officials on instream flow issues and provide perspectives of stakeholders.

Q: Is there a move towards consensus on a particular flow?

A: Not certain. Although it is hoped that entities that have proposed flows will communicate during March.

Public Comment

- Sara noted that Ecology's pre-adjudication team is working in WRIA 54. Ecology will need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with adjudication this summer. Sara said that the April Planning Unit meeting would be a good time for Ecology's pre-adjudication team to update the WRIA 54 Planning Unit.
- Sara noted that the 401 certification for Avista's Spokane Project will be released around March 13.
- Rob noted that the WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 Implementation Teams have approved their Detailed Implementation Plans and now move into year two of implementation.
- Brian Crossley noted that a 3-day float trip is planned along the Spokane River in June 2008. The float trip will be organized by Andy Dunau as a component of the Spokane River Forum project.
- Rob suggested that Andy Dunau be invited to speak to the WRIA 54 Planning Unit in the next few months. Andy was recently awarded the work to organize and facilitate the Spokane River Forum.

Administration and General Schedule Announcements

Mike Hermanson said that he has sent in the grant amendment to Ecology to allocate an additional \$10,000 to cover the projected project management costs for Spokane County.

The following meetings are scheduled and open to everyone:

MARCH 2008:

- WRIA 54 Water Management Work Group, Friday March 21, 9 am – noon, Conf. Rm. 4A, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA.
- WRIA 54 Land Use Work Group, Friday March 21, 1:30 – 4:40 pm, Conf. Rm. 4A, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA.
- WRIA 54 Technical Information Work Group, Tuesday March 25, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Conf. Rm. 4A, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA.
- WRIA 54 Water Quality Work Group, Wednesday March 26, 9 – 11 am, Conf. Rm. 4C, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA.
- WRIA 54 Planning Unit, Wednesday March 26, 6 – 8 pm, Lakeside High School Library, 5909 Highway 291, Ninemile Falls, WA.

APRIL 2008:

- WRIA 54 Education Work Group, Thursday April 3, 1:30 - 4 pm, Conf. Rm. 4A, Spokane County Public Works Building, 1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA. Craig Volosing made a request that a person with education experience be asked to participate, and the group acknowledged that Brook Beeler (Ecology) would fit that role. Sara said that she will ask Brook Beeler to help with the Education Work Group.

Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

The next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 6 – 8 pm, Lakeside High School Library. Bryony adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.