

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
March 19, 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>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>	Doug Rider, <i>Spokane Co Water Conservancy Board</i>

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for February 20, 2008 was reviewed and approved with two corrections, Brian Bolles, Pend Oreille Conservation District, WRIA 62 (spelling) and under Memorandum of Agreement, the signed final needs to be returned to Reanette Boese instead of Lloyd Brewer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Mike Lithgow reported that Pend Oreille County received \$350,000 for their Shoreline Master Plan Update that will be completed by 2010. The group will use the money from last years grant for the beaver tube project to retain their facilitator Bryony Stasney and will not need financial support from the Planning Unit. The next meeting is Monday March 24, 2008, 7 p.m. at the Riverside High School.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: Rob Lindsay reported that the group met on February 26, 2008. They are applying for the extra \$9,000 of the Watershed Council grant money for a meeting with elected officials and to finalize the Instream flow report.

Conservation: Reanette reported there would be a RWCC meeting on Thursday afternoon, March 20, 2008. Brook from Department of Ecology is interested in talking with this group on conservation ideas. Ty Wick reported that SAJB members will meet to discuss potential joint water conservation projects Wednesday, March 26, 2008. He stated that over 90% of the members are financially supporting joint conservation projects this year. The SAJB also has web-based watershed pledge that is ready to be implemented.

APC Meeting: Rob Lindsay reported that the group had their quarterly meeting last week. They are working on funding to retain their facilitator, Sara Olson. The group is working on a regional chart that would provide contact information on different water related issues in both Idaho and Washington.

Grants: Reanette passed out copies of the Draft Amendment to the Ecology Grant for the \$33,500 remaining from last year to be used for the facilitator, water availability analysis, and water storage opportunity research.

The group discussed the possibility of Spokane County including the “West Branch identification of surface storage” project under the same contract as the wetlands and water storage identification

currently being advertised rather than having Pend Oreille Conservation District. The West Branch committee will discuss this at their next meeting.

Detailed Implementation Plan The Planning Unit reviewed assignments for April – June Implementation Actions.

Water Conservation, Reclamation, Reuse

- WIT efforts to encourage purveyors to conduct user surveys about water conservation and outdoor water use. **Lloyd Brewer and Kris Graf will bring information to the Planning Unit.**
- Wit and DOH efforts to encourage purveyors to consider rate incentives in conservation plans to encourage irrigation efficiency. **State Law mandates this to be included in comp plan updates.**

Domestic Except Wells

- WIT/Spokane County's formal request to Spokane Regional Health District and the NE Tri-County Health District regarding the production rate for domestic except wells require for issuance of a building permit. **Spokane County will draft a letter referencing length of test and yield requirements.**

Water Rights and Claims

- WIT request to Ecology to hire a Water Master to oversee data gathering, evaluation, and enforcement, and to have direct contact with landowners. **It was decided that the Planning Unit would have a briefing on the pre-adjudication process and water right enforcement first and then draft a letter to Department of Ecology to hire a Water Master.**

Strategies for Base Flow Augmentation

- WIT efforts to encourage Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties to retain or hire a wetlands biologist. **Rob Lindsay and Reanette Boese are working on this.** The will be a Critical Area hearing on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 and the comment period is still open.
- WIT efforts to encourage counties and DNR to require loggers to post a sign bearing their name for five years following logging in order to encourage an improvement in forest practices. **Susan Gulick will draft a letter.**

Strategies for Groundwater Recharge Augmentation

- WIT creations of sub-committee to examine current storm water plans, and take recommendations to cities and counties. **Rob, Reanette and Lloyd** will coordinate a briefing from local people working on Stormwater Plans for the Planning Unit.

Approaches to Plan Implementation

- WIT efforts to encourage the National Weather Service, the NRCS and the USGS to publicize their forecasts. **Spokane County is and will continue to work on this.**

Memorandum of Agreement: Lloyd Brewer reported that the language in the final Memorandum of Agreement has been finalized and the signed copies should be sent to Reanette by the end of March.

Other Issues/Announcements: The Whitworth Water District Water System Plan was reviewed by Kris Graf and Reanette Boese. Kris Graf commented that it was a good plan and Reanette was very impressed. It was decided that the plan was not inconsistent with the Watershed Plan.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

April 2, 2008

9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District

In general, meetings will be the first Wednesday of each month. Instead of conference calls between meetings, Susan Gulick will e-mail or call members to remind them of specific tasks that have been assigned to them and due dates.