# Meeting Summary Watershed Implementation Team

Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan June 4, 2008

# Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, SAJB

Susan McGeorge, Whitworth Water

Rob Lindsay, Spokane County

Claudia Crawford, Whitworth Water

Mike Lithgow, Pend Oreille County

Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane

Reanette Boese, Spokane County

Kris Graf, City of Spokane Water Dept

Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assoc

Steve Skipworth, Vera Water & Power

Sara Hunt, Dept of Ecology Tim Vore, Avista Utilities

Brian Walker, The Lands Council Travis Schmidt, City of Spokane Valley

Ben Brattebo, Spokane County

**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 May 6, 2008 was reviewed and approved.

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

West Branch Little Spokane River: Mike Lithgow reported at the April 28 meeting, they had a presentation on "bank stabilization." The group is going to use some of their monies on beaver restoration and bank restoration at Sacheen Lake. The State Fish & Game Department is purchasing a portion of "Rustlers Gulch." That portion is north by Horseshoe Lake.

The LSR TMDL Draft Report will be out soon. Greg Sweeney reported that the West Branch group would like a briefing.

<u>Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report:</u> The Instream Flow Committee met last week. Sara Hunt reported she worked to complete a technical memo summarizing the group's discussion for the instream flow decision. The group will meet June 26, 2008 with county and city elected officials at the Spokane Convention Center.

<u>Conservation</u>: Reanette reported the RWCC will meet Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Spokane County is writing an RFQ for a company to run their indoor water conservation rebate program.

There will be a Smart Watering Workshop at Liberty Lake Pavilion Park, 9:00am on June 21, 2008.

**APC Meeting:** Ty Wick reported there will be a meeting June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Health Department. They will have a presentation on underground or below ground storage tanks. The funding that supports this group's facilitator, Sara Olson, has run out.

**Grant Updates:** Reanette is working on grant amendments for the Department of Ecology because the Planning Units grant projects have had a late start.

<u>Memorandum of Agreement:</u> Reanette reported she has been receiving returned MOAs but still needs to receive one from Liberty Lake and SAJB will resend their signed copy.

#### **Implementation Activities:**

- Letter to State about Conservation Issues: Susan Gulick will consult with irrigation efficiency experts from Ecology and elsewhere to compile a list of potential incentives for irrigation efficiency. The WIT will send a letter to the state leaders advocating the desired incentives. One incentive that will be considered is eliminating the personal property tax on farmers when they update pipes, sprinklers, etc. for irrigation efficiency.
- Land Use Issues: Susan McGeorge, Reanette Boese, Mike Lithgow, Greg Sweeney, Ty Wick, Sara Hunt and Lloyd Brewer will draft a letter regarding land use planning, particularly in zoning and subdivision delineations. The letter will state the WIT's concern that land use decisions are being made without adequate consideration of water availability, particularly in terms of seasonal availability.
- Letter to Spokane Regional Health District and NE Tri-County Health about production rates for domestic exempt wells: A hand out with the FHA Appraisal Guidelines for "Quantity of Water and Holding Tanks" was circulated. The FHA guidelines and others for eastern Washington should be included in the letter to request an evaluation or the required production rates. Reanette will draft a letter for WIT review.
- Wetlands Issues: A consulting firm, PBS&J, has been hired and Ben Brattebo, Spokane County, will be working with them on the Wetland Restoration and the Saltese Flats Studies. PBS&J will meet with the West Branch committee and interested members of the WRIA 55/57 WIT as they develop the detailed scope for the study on Wetlands and other storage and recharge opportunities. Spokane County is adding \$200,000 to the Saltese Flats study to study using reclaimed water in the wetlands.
- Logging Letter: A draft letter to Spokane, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties and the DNR on behalf of the WRIA Planning Unit was circulated requesting that logging and forest managers post the property with their name for a minimum of five years stating that they have harvested an area in order to encourage responsible forest management. The WIT approved the letter and Reanette will send it to the counties.

# **Other Issues/Announcements:**

Rob Lindsay indicated the 2<sup>nd</sup> round for Columbia River grant fund applications is coming up in October. There will be discussions on grant monies in August and September for a portion of Columbia River grant monies.

Reanette indicated she had received the SEPA checklist for the Pend Oreille County development regulation update.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

July 10, 2008 Columbia River Water Management Water Workshop Moses Lake

# **Next Planning Unit Meeting:**

Wednesday JULY 2, 2008 9:00am – 12:00pm Spokane County Conservation District