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  
Sara Hunt, Dept of Ecology  
Brian Walker, The Lands Council  
Ben Brattebo, Spokane County  

Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane  
Reaneette Boese, Spokane County  
Kris Graf, City of Spokane Water Dept  
Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assoc  
Steve Skipworth, Vera Water & Power  
Tim Vore, Avista Utilities  
Travis Schmidt, City of Spokane Valley

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.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report:  
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.

Conservation:  
Reaneette reported the RWCC will meet Thursday, June 19th, 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 17th, 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:  
Reaneette is working on grant amendments for the Department of Ecology because the Planning Units grant projects have had a late start.

Memorandum of Agreement:  
Reaneette 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 2nd 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