

**Meeting Summary**  
**Watershed Implementation Team**  
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan  
August 6, 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>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>
Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water &amp; Power</i>
Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Kris Graf, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rick Noll, <i>Sp Co Conservation Dist</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>

**Guests Present:**

Dale Gill, *Private Property Owner*  
Carolyn Comeau, *Dept of Ecology Columbia River Unit*

**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 July 2, 2008 was reviewed and approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**West Branch Little Spokane River:** No updates. Next meeting will be August 20, 2008.

**Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report:** Rob Lindsay expressed his frustration with the Fish & Wildlife Department for waiting until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to announce that they were going to go back over all their spawning flow numbers before making their decision. Rob commented that it was not frustration with their scientific approach but with their timing, waiting until the last minute to do this because they could hold up the process indefinitely. Sara Hunt will talk to the Fish & Wildlife Department to see if an employee could attend our next meeting.

**Conservation:** Reanette reported that the “Built Green Workshop” that was held July 14<sup>th</sup> was on “Low Impact Development Options.” A diverse group of builders, developers, real estate agents, and Dept of Ecology was in attendance. Reanette also indicated a RWCC sub-committee is setting up irrigation efficiency classes. The people attending these “Water Smart Irrigation” classes will have the opportunity to take a test the day after the classes to become Water Sense certified.

Lloyd reported at the last City Council Meeting the Mayor’s proposal for water restrictions was discussed. At this time it is unclear when or how it will happen. The City is also working on the budget for their indoor and outdoor water conservation equipment rebate program. Lloyd indicated the City is working with the County and water purveyors on an indoor water conservation rebate programs and the water groups are trying to coordinate with Avista’s energy savings rebates.

**APC Meeting:** Rob Lindsay reported that Spokane County will coordinate and facilitate quarterly meetings with Idaho to keep the dialogue going. The group lost the funding for their coordinator but wants to continue with discussions between the two states. Rob will contact Calvin Tarada of EPA about holding a water quality emergency table top exercise.

**SVRP Model** Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and Department of Ecology are developing an internet tool using the interstate model for assessing the effects of water management decisions. Sara will send out the 2 page summary.

**Grant Updates:** Mike Hermanson reported that by the end of 2008 \$105,000 will be spent of Phase IV money. \$19,000 of the Phase IV money was not spent and a request asking for permission to use this in the Watershed's next phase has been submitted. A Grant Application for \$125,000 has been submitted for 2009.

It was suggested the Planning Unit consider requesting more money from the legislature because WRIA 55 and WRIA 57 were combined and therefore receive less funding than if there were two separate Watershed Plans.

**Memorandum of Agreement:** Rob Lindsay talked to the City of Liberty Lake about their MOA and was told it was approved but has not yet been returned. Tavis Schmidt had reported that the City of Spokane Valley would not look at or consider the MOA until the middle of October.

**Implementation Activities:**

- Status of the Elk/Chattaroy gauges: Rick Noll reported that the Elk gauge is up and running and the real-time web site is operational now.
- The draft letter to the state on Conservation Incentives for Irrigators was discussed and it was decided to hold onto the letter until Lloyd Brewer can take it to the City for suggestions on incentives other than tax credits since a lot of the golf courses and parks are tax exempt. It was decided that the letter should include discussion on evaporation and elaborate on the differences between the east side of the mountain and the west side relating to this.
- The draft letter to the Spokane Board of Health, on production rates for domestic exempt wells was discussed and a few changes were recommended. It was decided that the letter should be sent to Spokane, Pend Oreille and Stevens County Commissioners and Planning Department in addition to the Spokane Board of Health.
- The draft letter to the Department of Ecology requesting a Water Master for Spokane Watersheds was reviewed. The letter will be revised to include a description of the tasks the group feels a Water Master could do. Sara also noted that the state will need support from WIT members (particularly local governments) if enforcement actions are taken.
- Little Spokane letters – Sara Hunt said she would find out if Ecology Water Resources will be sending out letters this year to junior water rights holders to curtail use.
- It was noted that legislative liaisons for WIT members should be kept apprised of any letters that will be sent to legislators.
- Rob is interested in having a panel discussion with representatives from Regional Health, Ecology, and County Planning Departments to discuss issues of water availability and permitting.
- The WIT would like a joint meeting with WRIA 56 to discuss alternatives to the “use it or lose it” provision in state law.

**Other Issues/Announcements:** Carolyn Comeau reported that the Columbia River Grant Program would be funding 25 projects. Contract negotiations for these will begin in September. The second grant cycle will be moved from October 2008 to January or later next year. The Columbia River Program has a website where people can apply electronically for the grants.

Rob Lindsay wanted the unit members to know that the petitions on the Mt Spokane development sent out by Susan Gulick for Rob were from him personally, not as a WRIA member.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Regional Dialogue                      August 14                      Upriver Dam 1:30 pm Tour/Meeting 2:30 pm

**Next Planning Unit Meeting:**

September 3, 2008                      9:00am – 12:00pm                      Spokane Co Conservation Dist