

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
September 3, 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>	Dave Jones, <i>Spokane Co Planning Comm.</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 & 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>
Tim Vore, <i>Avista Utilities</i>	Tavis Schmidt, <i>City of Spokane Valley</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 August 6, 2008 was reviewed and approved with one spelling correction under APC Meeting Update, which should be Rob Lindsay not Rod Lindsay.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Mike Lithgow reported that Jon Jones from Department of Ecology gave a presentation on the Little Spokane River TMDL at their last meeting. The group may apply for the “Terry Husseman Grant” to do bank restoration on Sacheen Lake.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: Sara Hunt reported that she has a meeting scheduled with the Fish and Wildlife Department and the Department of Ecology and will report the results of that meeting at our next meeting in October.

Conservation: Reanette reported that there would be a meeting with RWCC in September. A request for quotes to teach the irrigation efficiency classes were sent to a number of sprinkler companies. Contractors who attend the classes and pass the test, will be Water Sense certified. An email will be sent out with the class dates.

Ty Wick reported that the mayors had another meeting and would like to hire a firm to create and implement a regional conservation education program.

Rob Lindsay reported that ECOS was selected for the Spokane County indoor water conservation rebate program and Avista is willing to partner with them with their energy savings rebates. Other interested parties will also be able to be partners in the rebate program.

Rob also suggested that we set aside some time at the next meeting for the WIT to discuss whether to support the City of Spokane Mayor’s proposal for watering restrictions.

APC Meeting: No Update. Next meeting will be September 16, 2008.

Grant Updates: Reanette reported the grant application for year two has been sent. Sara Hunt reported that the supplemental grant application forms will be available October 1 and they will be due by the end of January 2009. The “Terry Husseman Grant” applications are due September 12, 2008.

Storm Water Update: It was decided that a storm water update would be added to the meeting agenda.

Memorandum of Agreement: The City of Liberty Lake MOA has been received and Tavis Schmidt reported that the City of Spokane Valley has scheduled the MOA for the second time on their September 9, 2008 agenda.

Implementation Activities:

- The draft letter to the State on Conservation Incentives for Irrigators was discussed and approved to mail.
- The draft letter to the Spokane Board of Health, Spokane County Planning Commission, Spokane County Commissioners, Pend Oreille Planning Department and County Commissioners, and Stevens County Planning Department and County Commissioners on production rates for domestic exempt wells was discussed and approved to mail.
- The draft letter to the Department of Ecology requesting a Water Master for Spokane Watersheds was reviewed and two changes will be made and then the letter will be sent out.
- Ongoing review and discussion of a number of outstanding 2009 Implementation Actions.

Low Flow triggers: It was decided that because the instream flows did not fall below minimum this year no letters will be sent out to permit exempt well owners in the Little Spokane Watershed asking them to voluntarily conserve water. Sara indicated she felt there was a need to address how “low flow” letters should be handled in the future. The following sub-committee was formed to address these issues and others.

Water Rights Compliance Education/Outreach: A sub-committee was established to include Rob Lindsay or Reanette Boese, Steve Skipworth, Lloyd Brewer, Kris Graf, Ty Wick, and Susan McGeorge. Sara Hunt will coordinate. The Implementation Team would like the sub-committee to develop conservation education for exempt well owners, work with the Department of Ecology on their attitude between Department of Ecology staff and exempt well owners that result from instream flow rules, and defensible space issues and identify areas which need to be addressed.

West Branch stream gauging strategies (R.III.B.05.a): Rick Noll of the Spokane County Conservation District will work with the West Branch group, Pend Oreille Conservation District, and Ecology on a gauging strategy and identify the questions that should be answered.

Other Issues/Announcements: Sara Hunt reported that Mary Ausburn is the new SEPA coordinator for the Department of Ecology.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

October 1, 2008

9:30am – 12:00pm

Chattaroy Fire Station