

FINAL
Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
October 22, 2008

Location: Airway Heights Community Center, Airway Heights, WA.

Planning Unit members and guests recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County	Sara Hunt, WA State Dept. of Ecology
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe	Cindy Reddekopp, City of Airway Heights
Merrill Ott, Stevens County	Brian St. Clair, City of Airway Heights
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane	Dick Price, Stevens County PUD #1
Courtney Harder, Lincoln County Planning	Craig Volosing, Landowner and Palisades Neighborhood
Hank Nelson, Avista	Bart Haggin, Lands Council
Cynthia Carlstad, TetraTech	Bryony Stasney, Golder Associates Inc.
Wes McCart, Stevens County Farm Bureau, Stevens County Water Conservancy Board and Landowner	
David Luders, Fairchild Air Force Base and Indian Village Estates Water Assoc.	

Call to Order

Bryony opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Attendees introduced themselves. Bryony requested that each attendee complete the sign-in sheet.

Review and Approve September 2008 Meeting Summary

The draft September 24, 2008 WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting summary was reviewed page by page with the following edits: 1) Page 3, 4th bullet in the list summarizing the Planning Unit's discussion of the preliminary Watershed Plan, edited to read, "Wes expressed concern that a number of the actions designated as suggestions maybe should be considered as recommendations or obligations." Those present accepted the suggested change and approved the summary as final. The final meeting summary will be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Public Comment

- Charlie Kessler (Stevens County Conservation District) provided a one-page handout entitled, "Chamokane Creek Watershed Implementation Project." The Stevens County Conservation District will be submitting a grant application to Ecology by October 31, 2008 for Centennial Clean Water Funds and/or 319 grant funds to address water quality and water quantity issues in the Chamokane Creek Watershed over a three year period between June 2009 and December 2012. A Chamokane Creek Watershed Council is planned as a component of the project, with involvement anticipated from the stakeholders within Chamokane Creek, including the WRIA 54 Planning Unit. Charlie requested a letter of support from the WRIA 54 Planning Unit for the project. After discussion, the WRIA 54 Planning Unit agreed to support the project. Charlie Kessler and Mike Hermanson will draft a letter of recommendation. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) will submit the letter to the Stevens County Conservation District on behalf of the Planning Unit.
- Bart noted that the Lands Council has received a \$30,000 grant to work with beavers and water storage in northeastern Washington.

Discussion of 2009-2011 Watershed Implementation Grant Request – Mike Hermanson, Spokane County

Mike noted that he emailed out Ecology's application forms for supplemental watershed implementation grants for 2009-2011 to the WRIA 54 email list on October 7 along with the preliminary ranking and application forms completed by the Planning Unit earlier in the year. Since the WRIA 54 Watershed Plan is anticipated to be approved by June 2009, the WRIA 54 Planning Unit is eligible for the 2009-2011 implementation funding. Detailed applications are due to Ecology by December 5, 2008 for operational grants and streamflow gaging

grants and by December 31, 2008 for capital grants. Mike noted that the Planning Unit is not committed to completing detailed application forms for the projects ranked earlier in the year.

Mike requested that each project proponent complete the more detailed application forms for projects they are interested in and be ready to discuss the projects at the November 19, 2008 Planning Unit meeting. The Planning Unit members will then rank the proposed projects at the November 19, 2008 Planning Unit meeting. Mike requested that the project proponents email completed detailed applications to him by November 12, 2008 so that he can compile all applications and email them to the WRIA 54 email list in preparation for the November 19 Planning Unit meeting. If needed, Spokane County will host a meeting prior to the Planning Unit to go over the proposed projects. Mike noted that Spokane County plans to complete applications for: water demand forecast, first component of the Ninemile non-point source assessment, and a hydrogeologic assessment in the Deep and Coulee basins (in association with Eastern Washington University).

Sara noted that the funds will be very competitive this year and it will be important to include a compelling problem statement in the applications.

Presentation and Discussion of draft WRIA 54 Watershed Plan – Cynthia Carlstad, TetraTech and Bryony Stasney, Golder Assoc.

Those present confirmed that they had received the hard copy of the October 2008 working draft WRIA 54 Watershed Plan. The working draft will also be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/wria54.htm>.

Cynthia provided the following presentation:

Watershed Plan Topics for Discussion Today

- How to get a copy of the Watershed Plan
- Orientation to the Plan
- Suggested review process
- Implementation framework

How to get a copy of the Watershed Plan

- Hard copies mailed to all Planning Unit members and alternates
- A few additional hard copies available today
- Electronic version posted on Spokane County website

Orientation to the Watershed Plan

Cynthia noted that the Planning Unit can make suggestions on the document format – e.g., to make the document more user friendly. Currently, the Plan is divided into the following 3 parts:

- **Part 1**
 - Introduction
 - Watershed Characteristics (overview)
 - Summary of Technical Studies completed in association with Watershed Plan
- **Part 2**
 - Technical Modules (9) – developed from work group products
- **Part 3**
 - Implementation Framework – will be included in the next working draft Watershed Plan
 - Adoption process, Planning Unit role in implementation, inter-WRIA coordination in implementation

Suggested Review Process

- Provide first review comments to Cynthia (cynthia.carlstad@tetrattech.com) by November 7. For larger organizations, these may be “screening” comments.

- Cynthia and Bryony compile and identify items needing discussion.
- November 19 Planning Unit meeting – discussion on compiled comments (focus on those comments needing group discussion).

Discussion Items from September

- Goals for water storage.
- Include work group products (issue papers, matrices) as appendix to Plan?
- Instream flow – clarify WRIA 54 recommendation regarding basin-wide instream flow work group memo.
- Specific items from individual Planning Unit member comments.

Schedule for Completion

- September 2008
 - Present draft Watershed Plan
 - Identify areas that need discussion
- October 2008
 - Draft Watershed Plan will be mailed to all Planning Unit members
 - Planning Unit meeting
 - Draft Implementation Framework
 - Focus on areas that need further discussion
- November 2008
 - Comments due on draft Plan (November 7)
 - Planning Unit meeting
 - Discussion on major comments
 - Implementation Framework
- December 2008
 - Revised draft Watershed Plan, including implementation framework
- January 2009
 - Draft final Watershed Plan (potentially the public review draft?)
 - SEPA
- February 2009
 - Final Watershed Plan
 - Planning Unit approval (second approval meeting in March?)

Implementation Framework Discussion

- Draft Implementation Matrix sent with Planning Unit meeting package, with homework assignment
- Talk through matrix today; focus on:
 - Identifying lead entity for main recommendations (esp. orphans)
 - Any suggested items that someone wants to elevate to recommendation (need to commit to lead implementation)
 - Priorities
 - Timeframe for implementation (if time)

Q: How does this parallel the TMDL process?

A: This process is separate from the TMDL process.

Q: We do not yet have a sense of how the Planning Unit will develop over time. Can we talk about this now? We should consider an MOA with Ecology to guide shared governance of water resources in WRIA 54 – and a recommendation for this within the Plan. We should also consider putting this information (at least in draft or as a template) within the Watershed Plan so that the Planning Unit can make a decision on how the Planning Unit will operate into the future.

A: This is important to discuss. Currently, this section of the Plan (Section 13) has not been developed for the

October 2008 working draft but will be developed for the November 2008 working draft. The Planning Unit did discuss some options for the structure of the Planning Unit in Phase IV and beyond at the August 2008 meeting. The options discussed was that the Planning Unit could consider maintaining its current structure, combine with WRIA 55/57 or develop a series of sub-groups that would focus on implementation in particular geographic areas (e.g., Chamokane Watershed or the West Plains).

Those present discussed ideas and concepts for how the Planning Unit could be organized during and beyond Phase IV of Watershed Planning (i.e., Implementation). The Planning Unit agreed to include information / ideas from the discussion into Chapter 13 of the Plan and to include an implementation section within the implementation matrix.

The following points summarize the notes taken on the flip chart during the discussion:

- Define shared governance concept for management of water resources in WRIA 54, considering the following:
 - Include a recommendation in the Watershed Plan for the Planning Unit to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the implementing entities and Ecology to guide management of water resources in WRIA 54.
 - The MOU / MOA should have a broad scope and provide over-arching guidance to address water resources issues across jurisdictional boundaries.
 - Describe the overall concept for the MOU / MOA in the Watershed Plan.
 - Develop the details of the MOU / MOA in the first year of Implementation (i.e., within the Detailed Implementation Plan).
 - The City of Spokane would like the Planning Unit to use the existing MOA that currently guides Watershed Planning in WRIA 54 as a starting point.
 - Consultant team will review other agreements that guide implementation (e.g., for WRIsAs 56, 55/57 and 59).
 - Include a recommendation in the Watershed Plan to develop a framework for the future structure of the WRIA 54 Planning Unit (during and beyond Phase IV) to continue the Watershed Planning work that considers local conditions. Ideas discussed were:
 - Develop the details for the framework in the first year of Implementation (i.e., within the Detailed Implementation Plan).
 - Consider the Planning Unit as a “clearing house” for tracking, working together and reporting out on implementation projects.
 - Framework should take advantage of the benefits gained by working together and sharing of efforts.
 - Define the role of the lead agency, lead entities for implementation and support entities for implementation.
 - The framework should evolve from the Planning Phase (current phase) to the Implementation Phase to Water Resources Management (under the concept of shared governance).
 - Develop specifics for each implementation action in the first year of Implementation (i.e., within the Detailed Implementation Plan) and include ideas for funding.
 - Include the concept of adaptive management into the Watershed Plan and implementation.
 - Think regionally:
 - Incorporate a mechanism / mechanisms for inter-WRIA coordination that consolidates Watershed Planning efforts across WRIA boundaries and considers physical similarities / differences across jurisdictional boundaries.
 - Incorporate a mechanism / mechanisms for efficient coordination considering that WRIA 54 includes a number of government entities, including 3 counties, numerous cities, Spokane Tribe and Fairchild Air Force Base.

The Planning Unit worked through the implementation matrix identifying lead entities for orphan actions for the following modules in the matrix: Water Rights Administration, Promoting Efficient Use of Water, Providing Water for Future Needs, Water Storage Opportunities, Integrating Land use and Water Supply Planning and Instream Flow. The Planning Unit did not have the time to identify lead entities for orphan actions in the following modules in the matrix: Water Quality, Technical Information Base and Water Resources Education.

The Planning Unit acknowledged that there may be some additional changes to the implementation matrix following the review of the October 2008 working draft Watershed Plan (comments from the Planning Unit due on November 7, 2008). Rob suggested that when reviewing the matrix, it is helpful to review the Plan text to appreciate the context of each recommendation within the matrix. Sara and Merrill suggested including a page number reference to the Plan in the matrix.

The Planning Unit agreed to designate recommendations that are not action items (but rather indications of position or support) as statements of support and to remove these from the implementation matrix and include a list of the statements of support in the text of the implementation section (i.e., Chapter 13 of the Plan). The Planning Unit agreed to note that the statements of support do not constitute a confirmation of monetary support and agreed that these statements may be ranked.

Public Comment

None.

Administration and General Schedule Announcements

The following meetings are scheduled and open to everyone:

- WRIA 54 Planning Unit, Wednesday November 19, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Lakeside High School Library, Lakeside, WA.
- WRIA 54 Planning Unit, Wednesday December 17, 9 am – noon, Airway Heights Community Center, Airway Heights, WA.

The following summarizes due dates for comments / grant applications:

Watershed Plan:

- Completed WRIA 54 draft implementation matrix due to Bryony (bstasney@golder.com and fax: 208-676-8602) by end of the day **Wednesday October 29 (and extended on October 30 to the end of the day Friday November 7)**.
- Comments on the Working Draft WRIA 54 Watershed Plan due to Cynthia (cynthia.carlstad@tetrattech.com) by end of the day **Friday November 7**.

Implementation Grant Requests:

- Completed grant applications for Ecology's watershed implementation funds are due to Mike Hermanson (MHERMANSON@spokanecounty.org) by **Wednesday November 12**. Mike sent out the grant application package to the WRIA 54 email list on October 7.

Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

The next WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Lakeside High School Library. Bryony adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.