

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
December 3, 2008

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>
Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>	Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>
Rick Noll, <i>Sp Co Conservation Dist</i>	Stan Miller, <i>Property Owner</i>

Guest Present:

Dale Gill, *Private Property Owner*

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*, Barry Dutton, *PBS&J*, and Gary Andres, *PBS&J*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for November 5, 2008 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River Mike Lithgow reported that the West Branch group had a lengthy discussion on how to function as a group without a facilitator.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: Sara Hunt reported that the Department of Ecology and the Fish & Wildlife Department may have a recommendation to present in January for the spring instream flow for the Spokane River. Sara will try to arrange for a Fish & Wildlife representative to attend our February meeting to explain the recommendation with a question and answer to follow.

Conservation: Reanette reported there will be a FREE Irrigation Workshop by Ewing, January 9, 2009 at the WSU Extension Office. There will be a two-day workshop April 22 and 23, 2009 for “Landscape Irrigation Auditor” at Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District office.

Susan McGeorge reported that Whitworth Water District put in an irrigation sensor at one of their larger grass areas and used 82% less water than the previous year.

Ben Brattebo reported that the County is getting close to finalizing the Agreement with the contractor for the Indoor Conservation Rebate Program. Rob Lindsay added that they are looking at “time and materials” basis for the contract.

Storm Water Update: We will have a presentation at the next meeting in January.

APC Meeting: Rob Lindsay reported the next quarterly meeting has been changed to December 16, 2008, 2pm at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District office.

Grant Updates: Reanette reported that some of the budgeted money for the irrigation efficiency classes (Ewing is handling the irrigation class in January) would be used for the Pend Oreille GIS parcel mapping, which the group had indicated that they could spend up to \$4,500 for this project. The overall grant budget does not change; it is just the two category amounts within the budget that are different.

Briefing by PBS&J: PBS&J provided two briefings on studies they are conducting for the WRIA 55/57 WIT.

The first study is to compile a list of surface water storage and wetland restoration opportunities in the two watersheds. For that work Gary Andres and Barry Dutton updated the WIT on the study status. Gary gave a presentation on surface storage options they have located by examining existing dams, natural lakes and infiltration areas. Barry gave a briefing on the wetland restoration portion. They have found 130 potential sites that might be used for wetland restoration projects. PBS&J will complete a draft report including opportunities with rankings based on several criteria and posted on the web. They will notify the planning unit for their review and members will have the opportunity to comment on which wetlands should be studied further. After the comments, PBS&J will complete a final ranking.

The second ongoing study by PBS&J is a wetland restoration feasibility study in WRIA 57 at Saltese Flats. Barry told the WIT that PBS&J has finished the quality assurance project plan, monitoring plan, and the existing information review. The existing information review is available for WIT members to read and provide comments by December 24, 2008. PBS&J also began on-site study with borings indicating layers of peat and sand, and bedrock at approximately 125 feet in the center of the Flats.

Review Final Grant Application:

The Operational Project Grants were reviewed and ranked again by importance:

1. Water Use Inventory & Demand Forecast – Rob Lindsay explained.
2. Irrigation Efficiency and Xeriscaping Education – Reanette Boese explained.

The two Capital Budget Grant requests were reviewed and ranked. They are due December 31, 2008:

1. WIRA 55/57 Wetland Restoration and Creation Implementation Project – Ben Brattebo reviewed.
2. Little Spokane Monitoring Network Infrastructure – Rob Lindsay reviewed.

Implementation Updates:

- Water Export (III.B.01.a): Has been moved to the January meeting.
- Exempt Groundwater Withdrawals (IV.C.01.a): The State meeting will be in Ellensburg December 10, 2008. Rob Lindsay and Sara Hunt will be attending and will summarize the meeting for the Planning Unit at the January meeting.

Other Issues/Announcements:

Dale Gill noted that the Tri-State Water Council document on best management practices for the Pend Oreille River was helpful.

Howard Rowley asked about dye studies on Liberty Lake and Latah Creek. Rick Noll replied that Ecology was getting travel time information from dye tests in Latah Creek; these data are needed for low DO studies. In Liberty Lake they used dye tests to get more information on stormwater flows.

Steve Skipworth reported that the highest level in Vera Water and Powers wells of the SVRP Aquifer in 2008 was in early June, two months later than usual. There was a 13 foot difference between the highest and lowest level, which is the biggest differential recorded. Perhaps some type of river storage to manage aquifer levels should be evaluated.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

January 7, 2009

9:00am – 12:00pm

Spokane County Conservation District