

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
January 7, 2009

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>
Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Kris Graf, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Walt Edelen, <i>Sp Co Conservation Dist</i>	

Guest Present:

Lars Hendron, *City of Spokane*
Brenda Sims, *Spokane County*
Matt Zarecor, *Spokane County*

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 December 3, 2008 was reviewed and approved with one correction under Conservation: the County is getting close to finalizing the Agreement with the contractor for the Indoor Conservation Rebate Program, they are looking at “time and material” for the rebate, should be “time and material” for the contract.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River Greg Sweeney reported that the groups funding for a facilitator has expired and they are looking at having quarterly meetings. At their last meeting PBSJ gave a presentation. The West Branch portion of the Phase 4 year 2 money for projects in 2009 was \$30,000 of which \$7000 has been spent. Allocations of the remaining money include \$12,000 for wetlands restoration site analysis of priority sites at Diamond, Sacheen, and Eloika Lakes and \$11,000 for surface water storage with the primary site being Eloika Lake.

The West Branch LSR Watershed Implementation Plan is available on their web site.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: No update.

Conservation: Reanette reported that Ewing will conduct the “Water Efficiency” workshop on January 9th, 2009. The Regional Water Collaboration meeting is January 15, 2009. Lloyd Brewer reported that the money for the City Rebate Programs was approved. He also reported that the City outdoor watering ordinance will be considered again around March.

Storm Water Update: Lars Hendron with the City of Spokane, and Brenda Sims and Matt Zarecor with Spokane County, discussed storm water with the WIT. Large municipalities must now get stormwater permits from the state. The permit requires them to educate the public and monitor water quality.

The City of Spokane now has an employee to check on problem swales and educate the public. They are also updating their local stormwater ordinance and mapping stormwater outfalls. The City is also updating their erosion and sediment control ordinance and their nuisance ordinance which will help with compliance. Lloyd will keep the WIT informed as the ordinances progress. Lars confirmed that City policy is to discharge stormwater to groundwater. There is no policy on xeriscaping in swales but it can be done with on a case-by

case basis. There are dry land grasses in some larger swales. Ecology makes the final decisions on sending stormwater to wetland; the City's ordinance copies language from the Eastern Stormwater Manual that states that sending stormwater to wetlands needs to be approved by Ecology.

Brenda explained and showed pictures of new County stormwater facilities including the Price/Wall and the Brown Mountain projects. Matt said that Spokane County now tries to develop regional facilities. They are hoping the new manual is easier to follow. Using wetlands for stormwater depends on Ecology and the need for pretreatment. Moving wetlands does not work well. In development, it is in the best interest to dispose of stormwater to the ground rather than evaporation because evaporation takes lots of space. Diverting stormwater to high infiltration areas requires regional facilities. Using xeriscaping is difficult because it is hard to establish and maintain. Natural drainage ways on the outskirts need to be preserved so they can be used as regional facilities.

APC Meeting: Rob Lindsay reported that the mid-December meeting included Exxon Mobil and the Department of Ecology reporting about their response to the spill last year in the above ground storage facility in Spokane Valley. The contamination seeped five feet into the ground.

Grant Updates: Reanette reported that Spokane County has asked Ecology for a grant amendment to receive the final \$19,000 of the Phase IV second year money. Also three Operating and one Capital Grant requests were submitted.

It was also mentioned that Watershed grant money from the Department of Ecology is being cut back in their budget this year.

Legislative Advocacy: A draft letter regarding funding for the Watershed Unit was presented and discussed. The WIT approved sending the letter with one minor change. Reanette and Susan will also work on a summary of accomplishments in WRIA 55/57. This will be sent with a future letter to the legislature to encourage ongoing funding of the WIT's implementation efforts. When the letters are sent to the legislators the Planning Unit members will be notified by email so that they can follow up by contacting their legislators.

Implementation Updates:

Exempt Groundwater Withdrawals (IV.C.01.a): The State meeting that was scheduled in Ellensburg for December 10, 2008 was canceled. A new meeting date has not been set.

Water Export (III.B.01.a): We will discuss this at the next meeting in February, along with a discussion of land use issues and how they are addressed in the WRIA 54 plan.

Exempt wells, Xeriscaping and an update on the groundwater inventory and mapping will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Other Issues/Announcements:

Upcoming Meetings:

Spokane River Forum	January 22 & 23, 2009	Mirabeau Park Convention Center
---------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------------

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

February 4, 2009	9:00am – 12:00pm	Chattaroy Fire Station
------------------	------------------	------------------------