

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
March 4, 2009

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Conservation District</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>	Tim Vore, <i>Avista Utilities</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</i>
Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water Dist</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>
Dave Jones, <i>Spokane Co Planning Comm</i>	

Guest Present:

Dale Gill, *Private Property Owner*

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, Facilitator, *Sound Resolutions*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for January 7, 2009 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River No update. The next meeting will be March 30, 2009.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: No update.

Conservation: Reanette reported that the landscape irrigation auditor workshop for April 22/23, 2009 is full. She has started a waiting list for those would like to attend if someone else drops out.

Rob Lindsay reported that the County has signed the contract for the Indoor Water Conservation Rebate Program with ECOS. They are planning a kick-off party around the 20th of March.

Storm Water Update: No Update.

APC Meeting: Rob reported the next meeting will be April 10, 2009 and they will have a tabletop / workshop on May 28, 2009 to be held at the Panhandle Health District.

Wetlands and Storage Projects: Ben Brattebo reported that there are three draft reports from PBS&J available on the Spokane County Water Resources website:

WRIA 55/57 Wetlands Opportunity Report

WRIA 57 Surface Storage and Recharge Opportunity Report

West Branch LSR Surface Storage and Recharge Opportunity Report

Ben is seeking comments by Friday, March 6, 2009. Please send to: bbrattebo@spokanecounty.org

At this time there are no feasible WRIA 57 surface storage project sites recommended for further study. There is one potential surface storage project site in WRIA 55: Eloika Lake. WRIA 55 and 57 currently have 4 potential wetland sites that are recommended for more in-depth analysis (Diamond

Lake-north side, Eloika Lake-southeast and south sides, Newman Lake-either the north or the south side, and Chester Creek.)

The WIT discussed whether to recommend that Newman Lake be considered as a possible WRIA 57 surface storage site. There are concerns with the control structure and the level of development at the lake. However, historically lake levels were higher. Rob suggested that Spokane County and other interested proponents attend a flood control meeting at Newman Lake and find out if there is any interest or support in further analysis. Mike H. will also do a model run to determine the potential for Newman Lake to recharge the aquifer and provide flow to the Spokane River.

Year 3 Budget: Sara Hunt reported that the legislature's appropriation for the Department of Ecology budget for the next biennium has not been completed. Sara described Ecology's recommend priorities for supplemental grant funds, if they are appropriated by the legislature.

The WIT compiles a list of priority projects that will need funding. They include the following (not in priority order):

- Water supply and demand inventory project
- Xeriscaping landscape plans
- Water export analysis including groundwater monitoring and river baseflow measurements
- Irrigation efficiency classes
- Multi WRIA land-use ordinance development
- Continue wetland project based on recommendations from PBS&J
- Analysis for placing boulders in the river in the Spokane Valley for white water rafting and to help with water levels
- Letters to Little Spokane River residents requesting voluntary water conservation during low flow periods
- Model small scale storage projects
- Facilitation and administration expenses

The WIT will refine this list and allocate funds as the available budget amounts become clearer.

Legislative Issues: Several water bills have been brought up in the House and Senate, and summaries were distributed to the group. It was decided that no letter from the group would be sent out in support of these bills because there are varying opinions on each of them. Individuals should write or call your representatives on the various bills. Comments on the Senate Bills should be sent by March 12th and the House Bills should be sent by March 27th.

Spokane County is writing a letter to Representative Lisa Brown on Watershed Funding asking for her support for this group to get more funding since we are two WRIAs but only receive 25% more than a single WRIA.

Exempt Well Issues: Keith Stoffel, Department of Ecology will attend our next meeting, April 8 to give the group an update on issues related to a hiring a water master, irrigation efficiency without relinquishment, exempt wells (including Policy 1230 and the Campbell Gwinn decision), adjudication-lite, and the instream flow rule making schedule for eastern Washington.

Issues in the Little Spokane Watershed: The Little Spokane River Education group is working on letters/flyers to be sent this year to approximately 6,300 water well users concerning water conservation.

Other Issues/Announcements: Please send any ideas or recommendations for the Annual Report to Susan Gulick before the next meeting. She will be summarizing the WIT's accomplishments for 2008. In particular, please send any desired amendments to the watershed plan or the DIP.

Workshop on Habitat Restoration May 15, 2009 Sacheen Lake

Public Comment

Dale Gill raised concerns about "taking" of land along rivers due to increasing regulations and restrictions to development. The cost to the County or State when a landowner sues could be substantial and decision-makers should keep this in mind.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

April 8, 2009 **9:00am – 12:00pm** Chattaroy Fire Station