

**Meeting Summary**  
**Watershed Implementation Team**  
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan  
April 8, 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>	Tim Vore, <i>Avista Utilities</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water &amp; Power</i>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water &amp; Power</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>
Bill Harmon, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc &amp; West Branch</i>	Jim Marthaller, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>

**Guest Present:**

Dale Gill, *Private Property Owner*  
Jim Gady, *Gady Pump & Electric*  
Keith Stoffel, *Dept of Ecology*

**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 March 4, 2009 was reviewed and approved with two corrections.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**West Branch Little Spokane River:** Greg Sweeney reported the West Branch has completed their Watershed Plan. The group met in January and again March 30, 2009 for a quarterly meeting. The group's priorities for this year will be: 1) beaver mitigation, 2) aquatic noxious weeds and vegetation, 3) flows and gauging, for both water quality and quantity, and 4) agency relations.

The Sacheen Lake Sewer & Water District is requesting a letter of support from the Watershed Implementation Team in reference to purchasing a 160-acre parcel to serve as a whole lake sewer system. The Sewer & Water District will have two informational meetings to present the facts: Thursday, April 23, 2009, 6:00 pm, St. Thomas More Parish Activity Center, Spokane and Saturday, May 9, 2009, 10 am, Sacheen Fire Station, Newport. The WIT discussed the request and it was decided that Greg would draft a letter in support of the Sacheen Lake Sewer for Spokane County's signature as the lead agency. Susan will distribute this to the mailing list for comment, along with the original e-mail from Sacheen Lake Sewer and Water District. The goal is to finalize the letter by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Greg also shared information on beaver trapping. He will e-mail the contact information.

**Conservation:** Reanette reported that RWCC will be meeting Thursday, April 9, 2009, 2 pm, at the Department of Ecology.

Lloyd Brewer reported that the City is in discussions with the contractors for the indoor water conservation program and also the outdoor watering conservation program.

Rob Lindsay reported that he received the program and marketing plan for the County Indoor Water Conservation Rebate Program today.

Sara Hunt presented a final draft of the conservation flyers to be sent out to private well owners in the Little Spokane River watershed area.

**Storm Water Update:** Reanette reported that there is a new “Neighborhood Drainage Assistance Program” launched by Spokane County Engineering and Roads, Stormwater Utility Department.

**APC Meeting:** Reanette reported the next “table top” discussion will be held on the afternoon of May 28, 2009 at Liberty Lake.

**Grant Update:** Rob Lindsay reported that the “Terry Husseman Grant” is open and applications are due by April 30, 2009. The Spokane County Parks, Newman Lake North, and Liberty Creek (Liberty Lake) may be submitting applications.

Sara Hunt and Keith Stoffel informed the Planning Unit about the Department of Ecology’s anticipated full time employee cuts and grant funding during the next two years.

**Discussion with Department of Ecology:** Keith Stoffel, Department of Ecology discussed a variety of water resource issues with the WIT.

- **Water Master:** Keith noted that it is difficult to have a Water Master before there is an adjudication, and suggested the WIT focus on requesting additional compliance staff rather than focus exclusively on a Water Master. Keith suggested resending the WIT’s letter (this time addressed to Ken Slattery) requesting additional compliance support be included in the next budget. The WIT could also ask local legislators to insert a budget proviso.
- **Irrigation Efficiency:** Ecology’s irrigation efficiency efforts are directed to the 16 fish-critical basins. Keith noted that unless you are changing crops there is generally not a lot of water savings through irrigation efficiency (the crop still needs the same amount of water to thrive) and return flows allow unused water to return to the aquifer. The water savings are non-consumptive savings. It was noted that water purveyors are required to increase efficiency from outdoor irrigation. Keith will get back to the WIT with more information on the difference between small-acreage irrigation and large-acreage irrigation and the need for efficiency.
- **Permit-Exempt Wells:** Keith reviewed Ecology policy 1230, which allows for consolidation of water rights. Under this policy, existing permit-exempt water rights can be consolidated. A purveyor who provides water to these customers will receive their water right (assuming they are no longer using the well). This does not include *future* water rights for new developments—it only applies to those rights that have already been put to beneficial use. Keith also reviewed the Campbell-Gwinn decision that ruled that developers are entitled to one exemption per development and cannot drill multiple wells when those wells will cumulatively withdraw more water than is allowed for one exemption.
- **Adjudication-Lite:** Keith clarified that this is an attempt to adjudicate by lumping categories of use (e.g. permit exempt wells) rather than adjudicating each individual parcel, which would be much more costly and time-consuming. It would not address Federal and Tribal reserved rights.
- **Instream Flow Schedule:** Keith did not have information on Ecology’s schedule to proceed with rule-making on instream flows in the Spokane region.

**Annual Report:** Susan Gulick is working on the draft Annual Report. The Annual Report will include recommended plan amendments. WIT members should send Susan any proposed amendments to either the Watershed Plan or the Detailed Implementation Plan for discussion at the next WIT meeting.

**Newman Lake Recharge:** Mike Hermanson, Spokane County presented a slide presentation on the results of the model run for the Newman Lake recharge.

Rob would like the WIT to consider allocating funds for these types of model runs in the next year. This will be included on the list of WIT priorities to be considered for 2009-10 funds.

**Other Issues/Announcements:** Susan McGeorge indicated that Reanette Boese had been interviewed by a member of the “Friends of Little Spokane River” and her comments relating to the effect of the Ice Age Flood on the Little Spokane River area had been printed in their newsletter.

Shoreline Management Meeting	City of Spokane	April 10, 2009
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Shoreline Living Workshop	Sacheen Lake Fire Station	May 9, 2009
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**Next Planning Unit Meeting:**

May 6, 2009	<b>9:00am – 12:00pm</b>	Spokane County Conservation District
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