

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
May 6, 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>	Rick Noll, <i>Sp Co Conservation</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>
Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Bill Harmon, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc & West Branch</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water Dist</i>	

Guest Present:

Gary Ostheller, *WRIA 56*

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. The meeting summary for April 8, 2009 was reviewed and approved with no changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Greg Sweeney reported the next meeting would be June 22, 2009.

The WIT reviewed and approved a draft letter to the Sacheen Lake Sewer & Water District supporting their purchase of land for the Sacheen Lake Sewer. The letter will also encourage that water reclamation and reuse be evaluated in the final design.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: No update.

Conservation: The Landscape Irrigation Auditing Workshop was held April 22 & 23, 2009 with an attendance of 27. Seven attendees took the Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor exam.

The flyers to be sent to exempt well users along the Little Spokane River are complete and the sub-group has a final quote for printing and mailing which is about \$600 over the amount budgeted. Susan McGeorge will ask the Whitworth Commissioners if they would be interested in covering the balance; if not, the WIT agreed that the money could come out of another category in the budget.

Lloyd Brewer reported that the City is working on an outdoor rebate program for water conservation where if the homeowner removes 1,000 square feet of irrigated lawn they will receive a \$100.00 rebate.

Storm Water Update: Reanette reported that there would be two grand openings for the new Storm Water Facilities at Glen Rose and Price/Wall on May 13 & 14, 2009. Drought tolerant, native plants and flower packets will be handed out to attendees.

Greg Sweeney reported that consultants will be presenting the Integrated Moran Prairie Stormwater Facility concept on May 13, 2009 at 7 p.m. at ESD 101.

APC Meeting: Reanette reported the APC will hold a “table top” exercise simulating a terrorist attack on the drinking water systems May 28, 2009 at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District office. The next regular meeting will be June 9, 2009 also at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water Dist office.

Grant Update: Rob Lindsay reported that Spokane County would not submit the 2 projects for the “Husseman Grant” as planned. They will take the next 6 months to work on these and submit them the next round.

Sara discussed the effects of the State Budget on the Department of Ecology. \$6.75 million and 6 FTEs were cut from the operating budget for this year. However, Sara is optimistic there will still be funding for Spokane-area WRIAs’ implementation grants and for the Hangman Creek Hydro-Geo Study. Watershed Council type support grants will also be available from the capital budget, although the amount will be less than for the previous biennium and will require a 100% match. In general, WRIA 55/57 should expect about \$125,000 for a one-year implementation grant, and \$25-30,000 for the two-year Watershed Council type Support Grant.

2009-10 BUDGET:

The WIT started a discussion on the 2009-2010 Budget to prioritize and allocate funds to projects that had been designated for this period. The estimated funding is less than the estimated implementation costs so the WIT will need to prioritize. The projects discussed include:

- Water supply and demand inventory project (\$10-15,000)
- Xeriscaping landscape plans/LID (TBD)
- Little Spokane River groundwater monitoring and river baseflow measurements (\$30,000)
- Irrigation efficiency classes (\$10,000)
- Continue wetland project based on recommendations from PBS&J (TBD)
- Model small scale storage projects/Analysis for placing boulders in the river in the Spokane Valley for white water rafting and to help with water levels (\$10-15,000)
- Letters to Little Spokane River residents requesting voluntary water conservation during low flow periods (\$4,000)
- Facilitation (TBD)
- Administration expenses (\$15,000)
- Riverside State Park/Spokane River Forum Signage (\$10,000)

Other projects considered but not included for 09-10 funding include:

- Water export analysis
- Multi WRIA land-use ordinance development
- Newman Lake Project (will be included in a Husseman Grant application with Ducks Unlimited)
- Realtor Education
- Financial Support for the West Branch Group

The discussion will be continued at the next meeting. To reduce some of the cost for facilitation, it was suggested that we reduce the number of meetings per year and/or possibly combine meetings with WRIA 56 occasionally.

ANNUAL REPORT:

Susan Gulick presented a draft of the Annual Report. This report is for the calendar year of 2008, even though implementation did not begin until April. The WIT provided comments on the draft. In particular, the WIT discussed the key challenges to plan implementation, particularly the need to better understand the impact of new permit-exempt wells on stream flows and on senior water right holders. Susan will rewrite this section before the next meeting.

Plan Amendments: Howard Rowley suggested that we include a general education workshop for Realtors and developers on the impact of domestic exempt wells.

Rob Lindsay suggested that the group consider forming a legislative committee. The focus would be state legislative issues but the committee could discuss relevant local legislative issues as well.

Jim Gady was unable to attend the meeting but contacted Susan Gulick to request that the group consider advocating homeowners on private wells be allowed to have more than a 5,000 gallon exemption because of fire protection. There was some concern about this suggestion and some WIT members felt this would be better addressed by the State as part of its review of the 5,000 gallon exemption. The WIT also discussed that there are effective means of fire prevention that do not require watering. The WIT declined to take a position to advocate for exceptions to the exemption, or to add this as a plan amendment.

The WIT did not have time to thoroughly discuss the proposed plan amendments and will continue the discussion at the next meeting. In the meantime, please alert Susan if you have other suggested amendments.

FACILITATION IN PHASE 4, YEAR 3

Susan Gulick left the meeting early for discussion of facilitation in the next budget year. Several people commented that Susan is doing a good job. Rob Lindsay suggested we could consolidate some of our meetings with WRIA 56 and share Susan's time. It was decided that Spokane County, Spokane County Conservation District, and Susan Gulick will prepare some suggestions of how to restructure meetings before the next meeting

OTHER ISSUES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The PBS&J reports are almost complete. Copies will be available at the next meeting.

NEXT PLANNING UNIT MEETING:

June 3, 2009

9:00am – 12:00pm

Chattaroy Fire Station