

FINAL
Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
July 29, 2009

Location: Airway Heights Community Center, Airway Heights, WA.

Planning Unit members and guests in attendance / recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County	Sara Hunt, WA State Dept. of Ecology
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County	Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Courtney Harder, Lincoln County	Dick Price, Stevens County PUD#1
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane	Larry Guenther, Stevens County Commissioner
Bryan St. Clair, City of Airway Heights	Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Bart Haggin, Lands Council	Charlie Peterson, Spokane County Conservation District
Mike Hamilton, WA DNR	Craig Volosing, Landowner and Palisades Neighborhood
Mike McCollum, Citizen	Linda McCollum, Eastern Washington University
Cynthia Carlstad, TetraTech	Dave Jones, Spokane County Planning Commission
Bryony Stasney, Golder Associates Inc.	
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors and Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association	

Call to Order

Bryony opened the meeting at 1:30 pm. Attendees introduced themselves. Bryony requested that each attendee complete the sign-in sheet. Bryony noted that there is a quorum present (i.e., ten voting members).

Review and Approve June 2009 Meeting Summary

The draft June 24, 2009 WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting summary was reviewed and approved with no changes. Dick Price asked if the word, "appointing" (page 4, list#9, last work on 10th line down) is the correct term. Those present agreed that it is the appropriate term and that it is referring to the representative of the government entity. The final summary will be posted on Spokane County's web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/project54/asp/home.asp>.

Public Comment

- Rob Lindsay informed the Planning Unit that the combined City of Spokane and Spokane County water conservation program is scheduled to kick off in early August with a press conference in Riverfront Park on Thursday August 6 at 11 am. There will also be a water conservation focus evening at the Spokane Indians game on the evening of Wednesday August 12, including an introduction by Ecology.
- Lloyd Brewer noted that information (including information on the rebate program) on the combined water conservation program will be on the website - www.spokanewatersmart.org.

WRIA 54 Watershed Plan Status and Approval Update – Cynthia Carlstad, TetraTech

Cynthia Carlstad reviewed the development of and the current status of the WRIA 54 Watershed Plan:

- Public Review Draft WRIA 54 Watershed Plan released in January 2009 with a 45-day public comment period ending on March 11, 2009.
- Cynthia compiled comments received, emailed the response-to-comment log to the WRIA 54 Planning Unit members and email list and worked through the issues needing immediate discussion with the Planning Unit at the March 25, 2009 Planning Unit meeting. A record of these items and the decisions agreed to by the Planning Unit is included in the March 25, 2009 meeting summary.
- The draft final Watershed Plan that is currently being reviewed for approval is posted on the project web site (<http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/project54/asp/home.asp>) and is dated April 7, 2009.
- The Planning Unit provided a **first approval** of the final draft Watershed Plan (dated April 7, 2009) at the April 22, 2009 WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting. At this meeting the City of Spokane and the City of Airway Heights deferred their first approval of the Plan in the interested of having the elected

official work through and decide how to proceed, primarily regarding the adjudication recommendation that is currently included in the draft final WRIA 54 Watershed Plan.

- There was no Planning Unit meeting in May 2009 since the City of Spokane and the City of Airway Heights were continuing to deliberate the Plan.
- There was a Planning Unit meeting on June 24, 2009. At this meeting Bryan St. Clair of the City of Airway Heights presented some editorial changes that had been requested by the City of Airway Heights. Those present at the meeting, reviewed and approved the suggested changes. After the meeting, Mike Hermanson distributed the suggested changes to the WRIA 54 email list and requested comments. Bryan St. Clair noted that the only request for a change (relative to the edits that the Planning Unit approved at the June 24, 2009 meeting) came from the City of Spokane regarding Recommendation WFN-1 on page 6-7. The City of Spokane requested that the last sentence of the recommendation be edited to read, “*This organization should encourage improvement of connectivity between water purveyors.*” **Those present agreed with this edit.**
- The draft final Watershed Plan currently includes an obligation for adjudication. Both the Cities of Spokane and Airway Heights are discussing approving the Plan with or without the adjudication obligation.
 - Lloyd Brewer said that the City of Spokane held a study session on July 16 regarding adjudication and that the session was attended by some Planning Unit members and Ecology Director Jay Manning. City Council questions were mainly focused on the ramifications of adjudication on the City of Spokane’s inchoate water rights. City Council president made a resolution on Monday July 27 to recommend that Council approve the Plan with the adjudication obligation included. However, this resolution will not be confirmed until August 3. Lloyd said that he therefore cannot provide a decision on Plan approval on behalf of the City of Spokane today.
 - Bryan St Clair said the City of Airway Heights Council will make a decision on Plan approval in the next week, with the adjudication obligation being the primary concern. Bryan confirmed that City of Airway Heights officials (including Bryan) attended the City of Spokane study session.

Cynthia asked the Planning Unit how they felt about:

1. Removing the adjudication obligation and approving the Plan sooner versus taking additional time for the Cities of Spokane and Airway Heights to consider the adjudication obligation.
2. Changing the adjudication obligation to a statement of support.

After discussion, the Planning Unit agreed to keep the adjudication obligation within the draft final Watershed Plan and wait for the Cities of Spokane and Airway Heights to make their decisions.

The Planning Unit acknowledged that:

- If the Cities provide direction to approve the Plan with the adjudication obligation, the Planning Unit could make their second approval of the Plan at the next meeting.
- If the Cities provide direction that they could approve the Plan without the adjudication obligation, the Planning Unit would need to make their first approval of the Plan at the next meeting and would have to schedule an additional meeting for the second Plan approval.

The Planning Unit agreed to keep the next Planning Unit meeting as August 5, 2009 at the Airway Heights Community Center at 1:30 pm.

Rob reminded the Planning Unit that there are no additional grant funds available to support Planning Unit meetings to deliberate Watershed Plan approval.

Presentation on Chamokane Creek Project by Charlier Kessler of Stevens County Conservation District

Charlie Kessler provided a presentation on the Chamokane Creek Watershed Implementation project. A copy of the presentation is available on the WRIA 54 project website at:

<http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/project54/documents/Presentation-Chamokane%20Creek%20Watershed%20Implementation%20Project.pdf>.

SCCD has received notice that the grant will be funded by Ecology under the Centennial Clean Water Fund. SCCD and Ecology will begin negotiating the contract in August or September, 2009. The project will run through June 2013.

Year 2000 Chamokane Creek Watershed Management Plan - six subwatersheds delineated

1. Lower Chamokane Creek
2. Chamokane Creek from Ford to Reservation road
3. Middle Chamokane Creek
4. Camas Valley
5. South Fork Chamokane Creek
6. Upper Chamokane Creek

Year 2000 Chamokane Creek Watershed – water quality concerns

- Fecal coliform bacteria – 4 subwatersheds
- Riparian condition – 4 subwatersheds
- Dissolved oxygen – 3 subwatersheds
- Temperature – 3 subwatersheds
- Channel Condition – 3 subwatersheds

Project Goals

- Improve water quality in Chamokane Creek and its tributaries to meet Washington State water quality standards
 - Reduce sediment loading by reducing streambank erosion
 - Work with livestock producers and onsite septic system owners to reduce fecal coliform bacteria contributions
- Improve, maintain, and protect stream health and channel function
 - Stabilize streambanks
 - Increase instream aquatic habitat
 - Assess riparian buffers with the objective of establishing a “greenbelt” along the mainstem
- Encourage methods of maintaining adequate streamflow to meet the many needs within the watershed
 - Study feasibility of retention storage ponds
 - Work with irrigators to promote efficient water use
 - Work with rural residents to promote efficient water use
- Educate watershed residents on the need to take personal responsibility for their watershed
 - Attempt to create a sense of natural resource stewardship
 - Increase public awareness of activities that enhance, maintain and/or protect water quality
- Improve coordination among the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Stevens County, Springdale, WRIA 54 Planning Unit, USGS, and watershed residents
 - Establish a Chamokane Creek Watershed Council
 - Promote public participation in watershed projects
 - Provide a forum for local entities to express concerns and work together to address those concerns
 - Represent Chamokane Creek Watershed on regional watershed planning efforts
 - Provide review of potential best management practice projects
 - Aid in information and education efforts
 - Review annual progress and recommend courses of action that best meet the needs of the Chamokane Creek Watershed

Work to Date

Watershed survey conducted by SCCD (Wes McCart, watershed resident) in September / October 2008. Wes visited 83 sites and talked to 74 landowners. The visits produced a list of 20 potential landowners willing to implement projects.

- Approximately 25,000 feet of streambank stabilization
- Approximately 16,000 feet of riparian planting
- Approximately 11,000 feet of stream corridor fencing

Presentation on Groundwater Inventory and Mapping Project by Mike Hermanson of Spokane County

Mike Hermanson provided a presentation on the groundwater inventory and mapping for the Little Spokane River Watershed (WRIA 55) which was funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology. A copy of the presentation is available on the WRAI 54 project website at: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/project54/documents/Presentation-Groundwater%20Inventory%20and%20Mapping.pdf>. Mike noted that Spokane County is interested in conducting this work in other watersheds and that the County was able to conduct this work at a good value budget of \$23,500.

Project Rationale

Spokane County conducted this project in WRIA 55 to address the WRIA 55/57 DIP recommendation to identify areas of limited water availability.

Project Goals

Develop a database of existing ground and surface water information for the Little Spokane River Basin in tabular, GIS, and geologic database formats to further understand:

- Spatial distribution and growth of permit exempt wells;
- Well yield, total depth, and static water levels;
- Potential areas of limited water availability;
- Future growth potential and impact on water resources.

The database can provide information for the development of a hydrogeologic conceptual model, design of a field investigation program and eventual development of a numerical model.

Project Tasks

1. Well Data Mapping and Analysis
2. Exempt Well Map and Data Base
3. Geologic Database
4. Ground/Surface Water Interaction
5. Monitoring Network
6. Development Projection / Build-Out Analysis

Task 1 - Exempt Well Analysis and Mapping

Three main data sources:

1. Ecology Well Log database
2. Ecology Notice of Intent database
3. Project specific work

Data Source 1: Ecology Well Log Database - 10,370 well logs in WRIA 55

Data Provided:

- Well Installation Date
- Location to the qtr/qtr section
- Deepened or hydrofractured

Data Source 2: Ecology Well NOI Database

- 7,891 Spokane, 3,597 Stevens, 1,568 Pend Oreille
- 13,055 Total Records

Data provided:

- Well Installation Date
- Well Yield
- Static Water Level
- Total Depth
- Location to parcel or street address

Once filtered, used approx 1300 records

Data Source 3: Project Specific work, including Masters Thesis and information on Colbert Landfill

Data provided:

- Well Yield
- Static Water Level
- Total Depth

Approx 1500 records

Task 1 - Exempt Well Map and Database

Assessor records were used to estimate number of exempt wells in use and their location.

Criteria: Parcels outside of a water district service area with greater than \$20,000 of improvements

Result: 7,613 records – 800 without addresses.

Database will be utilized in public outreach efforts in the basin

Task 3 – Geologic Database

Created a database of 1,743 borehole records including location, lithology, water level, and well log entries.

1,477 entries imported from Master Thesis database, 265 entered by hand from well logs.

Data can be used to develop cross sections, 3-D stratigraphic models, lithologic models, analyze water level changes, etc.

Will also serve as the basis for the development of a conceptual hydrogeologic model.

Task 4 – Ground/Surface Water Interaction

Collected historical stream flow data for WRIA 55 to determine the need for a seepage run to evaluate the surface/groundwater connection.

Task 5 – Existing Monitoring Infrastructure

7 existing wells suitable for continuous monitoring

57 existing wells with historical data and are suitable for periodic measurement

Task 6 – Development Projection

Evaluated the potential number of residential units in the basin given current land use policies.

Next Steps

The following are recommendations for future study that build upon the efforts of this project:

1. Conduct seepage runs on the Little Spokane River to determine the location and magnitude of groundwater contributions;
2. Continued development of the stream flow database;
3. Implement groundwater level monitoring at locations described in Task 7.
4. Evaluate domestic water demand patterns;
5. Continue development of the hydrogeologic database. Additions could include more wells in the northern portion of the WRIA and inclusion of screened interval on all records;
6. Evaluation of existing water rights within the basin to meet the needs of areas identified as future water service areas; and,
7. Evaluation of rural residential water demand.

Public Comment

Sara Hunt informed the Planning Unit that she has recently accepted the position of Section Manager for Ecology's Shorelines and Environmental Assistance Program in the Eastern Region and that she will be supervising Ecology's Eastern Region Watershed Leads. Sara will stay with the WRIA 54 Planning Unit through approval of the Watershed Plan and will then transition another Ecology staff to be the WRIA 54 Watershed Lead.

Administration and General Schedule Announcements

The following meetings are scheduled and open to everyone:

AUGUST 2009:

- WRIA 54 Planning Unit meeting, *tentatively scheduled* for Wednesday August 5, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, at the Airway Heights Community Center. The agenda will include discussion / update on approval of the draft final Watershed Plan followed by first or second approval of the draft final Watershed Plan.

Adjourn

Bryony adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.