

Meeting Summary
WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Watersheds
September 2, 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>
Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Conservation District</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept.</i>
Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Dave Jones, <i>Spokane Co Planning Comm</i>	Mike Peterson, <i>The Lands Council</i>
Art Jenkins, <i>City of Spokane Valley, Stormwater</i>	

Guests Present:

John Bottelli, *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 August 5, 2009 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: No update.

Conservation: Reanette reported that Ewing submitted a quote for two irrigation classes based on 30 people per class. The quote was much lower than the budget so she will ask for a quote for three workshops. These will be for two Irrigation Maintenance and Management workshops and another on the Principles of Irrigation Design, which is geared toward professionals.

Storm Water Update: Art Jenkins, City of Spokane Valley, reported that there are several new stormwater grants available from the Department of Ecology for Municipal Stormwater Permittees.

APC (Aquifer Protection Council) Meeting: Reanette reported the next meeting is September 15, 2009 at the Post Falls Library.

Grants: Reanette reported the Watershed Support Grant and authorization for the Phase IV Grant money has been applied for.

Annual Report: A few changes will be made to the final draft and the final will be emailed to the members.

Update on Lands Council Beaver Management Project:

Mike Peterson from the Lands Council gave an update on the Lands Council Beaver Management Project. The Lands Council received a \$30,000 grant to study the potential of beaver dams in

improving water storage. The study is focused on water storage and not addressing other benefits of beaver dams such as sediment storage, water cooling effects, increased habitat, decreased erosion, etc.

The final report will be complete by December 1, 2009. The Lands Council will likely apply for additional grant funds to conduct a pilot project after the final report is completed.

Land Use and Water Availability Issues:

The WIT discussed water availability recommendations in the Watershed Plan and the DIP. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Susan and Reanette will prepare a draft “generic” letter on water availability that can be submitted on development proposals by the WIT with short notice. It will still need WIT approval via e-mail before it is submitted on specific proposals.

Spokane County is working on their clustering ordinances.

September 15, 2009 is the public comment period for the County Shoreline Management Program.

Conservation Futures Program

John Bottelli from Spokane County gave an explanation of the Conservation Futures Program (CFP). A small, specific property tax is used for purchases of property or easements for open space or conservation. At times CFP funds are combined with other funding sources. There are generally numerous applications for CFP purchases and the selection process is very competitive. There are detailed criteria that are applied to rank applications, as well as site visits and public meetings to hear public input. These criteria can be modified each time the application process is opened.

John reviewed the CFP references in the DIPs of WRIAs 55/57 and 56. In general, the provisions are compatible with CFP and member agencies are encouraged to assist landowners in preparing applications. Agencies are also encouraged to advocate for the benefits of specific proposals. CFP funds cannot be used to purchase water rights.

Walt would like to prepare a proposal to CFP to change the selection criteria so that degraded habitat that has a high possibility for restoration can be more highly ranked.

Phosphorous Nonpoint Source Assessment

Ben Brattebo from Spokane County gave a presentation and discussion on the bi-state Phosphorus Nonpoint Source Assessment. The first phase of the study evaluated existing studies, identified specific sources, and prioritized sources. The prioritized sources include agricultural runoff within the Hangman Creek Subbasin; small-scale agricultural operations within the Little Spokane Subbasin; and a dense cluster of septic systems within the Suncrest portion of Stevens County. Next phases will include determining source locations and control measures.

Other Issues/Announcements:

Applications for the “Columbia River Grants” are due September 28, 2009.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

October 7, 2009

9:00am – 12:00pm

Chattaroy Fire Station