

Meeting Summary
WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane - Middle Spokane River Watersheds
October 7, 2009

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>
Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Doug Greenland, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	

Guests Present:

Dale Gill, *LSR Private Property Owner*
Jim Gady, *Private Property Owner*
Hank Radezky, *Private Property Owner*

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 September 2, 2009 was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Howard Rowley reported that the West Branch group held their quarterly meeting with Greg Sweeney facilitating the meeting. Rick Noll briefed the group on the TMDL and Mike Lithgow gave a report on Pend Oreille County mapping. Howard also added that Mike Lithgow is the new Director of Community Development for Pend Oreille County.

Conservation: Reanette reported that the Irrigation Efficiency Class will be held on December 7, 2009 and that she has several signed up for that workshop. The Irrigation System Design workshop and Maintenance Management workshop will both be held in the spring.

Legislation: The Legislative sub-committee will meet prior to the joint meeting on November 4th. Many important bills will be discussed in legislation in November and December.

Storm Water Update: No update.

APC (Aquifer Protection Council) Meeting: No update.

Grants: Reanette reported that the Phase IV Grant amendment and the Watershed Planning Support Grant, which will be used for grant administration, have been signed.

Ben Brattebo of Spokane County has spoken with Greg Sweeney about Eloika Lake Surface Water Storage Opportunities.

Ducks Unlimited has money to work on Wetland restoration to the north of Newman Lake. Spokane County staff are looking for ways to add the \$35,000 grant money to that effort.

The water use survey which is being done as part of the water use forecast grant is targeted to schools to get public input on residential water use. WIT members noted that this will miss families who do not have children and areas where there are few household with children. The WIT recommended that the surveys also be sent to individual residents because many areas do not have children attending school.

Plan Implementation Review:

The WIT discussed the Attorney General opinion on exempt wells. There is still a lot of uncertainty about what this opinion means. The WIT will ask for a briefing at their next meeting

The WIT had a discussion of water supply issues. The letter to Spokane County Planning Director regarding water supply for new developments was put on hold. WRIA 55/57 will work with WRIA 54 to develop county-wide recommendations regarding water supply and land-use decision-making. WRIA 54 will take the lead.

The WIT discussed the current requirements for determining water availability prior to new construction. It is important that water supply be shown to be adequate over time rather than only for a short period of time. The previous letter to the Regional Health District did not get a response. There was a discussion to send a letter to the director of the Regional Health District and copy the local Drinking Water section of the State Dept of Health and discuss the potential health issues with wells that produce only 1 gallon per minute that may not be sustainable. There was also a suggestion to add water quality testing at the time of building permit application beyond nitrates and bacteria. The WIT discussed the need to urge extreme caution in issuing permits in certain areas of the watershed where there is limited water supplies. WIT members were encouraged to send Reanette or Susan documentation of people running out of water so that specific examples can be cited in advocacy letters.

The WIT discussed water rights issues. The instream flow rule was adopted in 1977. All surface water users who are junior to the rule receive letters when the stream flow falls below the adopted instream flow. Wells junior to this rule are supposed to be shut off, but this rarely, if ever, happens. Reanette will look into when the basin was closed to new appropriations.

Other Issues/Announcements:

Reanette reminded that WIT that there is no funding to send letters to junior water rights holders in the West Branch to ask them to voluntarily conserve water during periods of low flows. The WIT did not feel that this was a problem because most people are not using inordinate amounts of water anyway. It may be more effective to get a water conservation message incorporated into other environmental messages out through the media with public service announcements.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with WRIA 56

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 **9:00am – 12:00pm** Spokane County Conservation District

Legislative Sub-committee will meet 9:00am – 10:15am prior to joint meeting.

(Rob Lindsay, Ty Wick, Susan McGeorge, Lloyd Brewer, Steve Skipworth, Greg Sweeney, Bill Harmon, and Rusty Post)