

WRIA 55/57: Little Spokane River and Middle Spokane River Watersheds
WRIA 56: Hangman/Latah Creek

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA

Meeting Summary

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, SAJB	Todd Henry, Vera Water & Power
Reanette Boese, Spokane County	Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Claudia Crawford, Whitworth Water	Susan McGeorge, Whitworth Water
Steve Skipworth, Vera Water & Power	Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Dept
Rusty Post, Dept of Ecology	Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane	Charlie Peterson, Spokane Co Conservation
Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assoc	Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake
Dave Jones, Spokane Co Planning Dept	Todd McLaughlin, Pend Oreille Co
Gary Ostheller, Fairfield Triangle Grange	Peter Grunte, Hangman Watershed Resident

Guests Present:

Lindsay Chupas, Spokane County Conservation District
Jo Anne Wright, City of Spokane
Jim Falk, Spokane County

Consultants Present:

Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions

Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for January 6, 2010 was reviewed and approved as presented.

Legislative Issues: Susan Gulick reported on three House Bills before the legislature. There are lots of Planning Unit members across the state who are advocating for retention of Watershed Planning funds. Watershed Planning is one or 3 priorities for the Washington Association of Counties (WAC). The WIT also discussed some other water-related legislation that is still alive. Steve Skipworth said there is one bill about Kittitas County that may have ramifications here because of over allocation due to inchoate water rights.

West Branch LSR: Greg Sweeney reported that Julie Anderson of WDFW gave a presentation on the Rustler Gulch property that was recently purchased. They also got an update on the Little Spokane TMDL and hope to get more information in the spring. A Citizens Advisory Meeting will be held February 15 and 16, 2010 to discuss this property. The West Branch will continue to meet quarterly.

Regional Health District Letter: A letter to the Health District was reviewed regarding water availability. Suggestions were made to add to the draft letter before mailing, including offering to meet with the Health District board to discuss seasonal impacts and impacts on neighbors. Reanette will make the edits and send the letter.

If you have questions or comments about the agenda, please contact Susan Gulick of Sound Resolutions at (206) 548-0469 or by e-mail at Susan@Soundresolutions.com.

Annual Report: The WIT discussed 2009 accomplishments that should be noted in the annual report. These include all of the grant funded activities, City and County rebate programs, Legislative Committee, West Branch Committee, SCCD Programs (stream gauging, relocation of gauges, seepage runs, xeriscaping website, and rural residential water survey), Liberty Lake Sewer and Water actions, Eloika Lake Integrated Aquatic Vegetative Management Plan, Newman Lake flood control, water reclamation efforts, non-point source study, etc. Susan McGeorge will also send a list of Whitworth projects.

Next WRIA 55/57 WIT Meeting:

March 3, 2010

9:00am – 12:00pm

Chattaroy Fire Station

Part II: Joint WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 Issues, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Xeriscape Website: Lindsay Chupas of the Spokane County Conservation District gave an update and presentation of the xeriscape website that the Conservation District and Department of Ecology are working on. Lindsay requests photos from WIT members of local examples of xeriscaping for the website.

Spokane County and City of Spokane Shoreline Management Programs:

Jo Anne Wright of the City of Spokane gave a presentation on the current status and accomplishments of the Shoreline Management Program for the city. The City completed 11 tasks including inventory, analysis and restoration plans. One difficulty was the new Washington State rule requiring “no net loss of ecological function” wasn’t defined. Ecology approved this SMP with conditions in February 2010. The City will review the conditions in the near future.

Jim Falk of Spokane County provided an overview and current status for the Shoreline Management Program for the county. The new plan is significantly changed from the 1978 plan. It has four new elements addressing shoreline protection and restoration. It includes language on private property rights. It will be a challenge to write policies to enforce the “no net loss of ecological function” rule. Ecology held a public hearing the SMP adopted by the County but has not yet indicated whether or not it will be approved.

WIT Self-Sufficiency: The WITs discussed the idea of creating a joint agreement between the four Spokane Watersheds (WRIAs 54, 55, 56 and 57) to operate jointly. This has a key advantage of reducing meeting times for the people who serve on all three WITs. However, it was noted that important local issues should not be lost; there would need to be time allotted for discussion of issues that only pertain to specific watersheds or sub-basins. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.