

Meeting Summary

WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed Planning Unit Meeting May 26, 2010

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

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

Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Jeff Cochran, City of Airway Heights
Rusty Post, Washington State Department of Ecology
David Luders, Fairchild Air Force Base and Indian Village Estates Water Association
Dick Price, Stevens County PUD
Bob Derkey, Retired Geologist
Jeanne Barnes, Association of Realtors & Lake Spokane Homeowners Association
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Craig Volosing, Palisades Neighborhood
Bart Haggin, Lands Council
Larry Guenther, Stevens County Commissioner
Linda McCollum, Eastern Washington University

Call to Order

Mike Hermanson opened the meeting at 10:05 am. Attendees introduced themselves.

Public Comments

Larry Guenther updated the group on the Chamokane Watershed Council. The group had a meeting that was well attended and many issues were discussed including stream stabilization projects, exempt wells, etc. Mike Hermanson said that Sue Kahle with the USGS will be presenting results of phase I of their project in the Chamokane Basin at the July 28, 2010 WRIA 54 Meeting.

Discussion of final 2010-11 Watershed Planning Budget & Impacts

Mike Hermanson reviewed the timeline of development of the Washington State 2010 supplemental budget and the impacts to watershed planning in WRIA 54. In December 2009 the Governor's budget was released and included a reduction in FY2010 funding for watershed planning, minimal funding for FY2011, and close out of the program by the end of FY2011. In response the WRIA 54 Planning Unit reallocated FY2010 funding to a Water Demand Forecast project and a West Plains Geologic Mapping project. The intention was to suspend WRIA 54 meetings and regroup in July to determine the future of watershed planning in WRIA 54. The State Legislature proposed a budget that included no reduction in watershed planning funding for FY2010 and FY2011. With funding continuing into FY2011 the WRIA 54 Planning Unit now needs to complete a DIP by October 22, 2010.

Detailed Implementation Plan Development - Approach

Mike Hermanson presented the following approach to development of the DIP. Prioritization work completed in January 2010 will be the basis for completing the DIP. High Priority recommendations identified in the document - *WRIA 54 Watershed Plan Addendum – Prioritization of Watershed Plan Recommendations and*

Obligations will be used develop timelines, milestones and work plans that will be included in the DIP. The following draft table of contents was presented to the group:

*WRIA 54 DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
PRELIMINARY TABLE OF CONTENTS*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Overview of WRIA 54 Physical Characteristics and Issues*
- 1.2. Purpose of the Detailed Implementation Plan*
- 1.3. Summary of WRIA 54 Watershed Planning Process and Technical Studies*
- 1.4. Public Outreach*

2. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

- 2.1. Strategies to Provide Sufficient Water*
- 2.2. Prioritization of Watershed Plan Recommendations*
 - 2.2.1. Prioritization Process*
 - 2.2.2. Prioritization Results*
- 2.3. Priority Project Implementation*
 - 2.3.1. Process for Developing Implementation Details*
 - 2.3.2. Project Leads and Project Plans*
 - 2.3.3. Timelines and Milestones*
 - 2.3.4. Agreements, Approvals and Permits*
 - 2.3.5. Eliminating Duplication and Inconsistencies with Existing Projects/Programs*
- 2.4. Funding Approach and Resources*

3. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

- 3.1. Early Implementation Actions*
- 3.2. Years 1-2 (Immediate Action)*
- 3.3. Years 3-5 (Next Steps)*
- 3.4. Years 6 and on (Long Term)*
- 3.5. Detailed Implementation Plan Update Schedule*

4. PLANNED FUTURE USE OF INCHOATE MUNICIPAL WATER RIGHTS

5. WRIA 54 GOVERNANCE

- 5.1. Lead Agency*
- 5.2. Relationship to Adjoining WRIAs; Role of Subcommittees*

APPENDICES

- A. Phase IV Requirements Checklist*
- B. Project Plans for "Immediate Term" Projects*

Mike Hermanson then presented the WRIA 54 DIP Timelines & Milestones Worksheet. He requested that each organization complete the worksheet indicating which projects they are interested in leading. He pointed out that this is the first cut of identifying project leads and the answers will be compiled and presented at the next meeting. He also pointed out that by a group taking lead on a project does not indicate they will provide funding. The group reviewed the worksheet. Rusty Post suggested adding a way to indicate an organization's interest in participating but not leading a project. The group agreed that would be a good idea. Mike Hermanson will send out an email to the WRIA 54 distribution with the worksheet.

Detailed Implementation Plan Development – Budget

Mike Hermanson described the budget for FY 2011 for WRIA 54 and provided the following information to the group:

WRIA 54 Fiscal Year 2011 Overall Budget

July 1, 2010	October 22, 2010	June 30, 2011
Phase IV Year 1 Grant - \$30,000	Phase IV Year 2 Grant \$70,000	
Planning Unit Support Grant - \$15,000		

DIP Completion Budget

Two funding sources are available for completion of the WRIA 54 DIP:

Phase IV Year 1 Grant -	\$30,000
Planning Unit Support Grant -	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$45,000

The following budget utilizes \$7,000 of the Planning Unit Support Grant:

Grant Administration and Project Management (Spokane County Staff)	\$4,000
Planning Unit Meeting Facilitation and Support (Consultant)	\$16,000
DIP Preparation (Consultant)	\$15,000
Inchoate Water Rights Analysis (Spokane County Staff)	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$37,000

Implementation Budget

Two funding sources are available for implementation in FY 2011 after adoption of DIP

Phase IV Year 2 Grant	\$70,000
Planning Unit Support	\$8,000

After FY 2011 WRIA 54 is eligible for the following watershed planning funds if available:

- Phase IV Year 2 - \$30,000
- Phase IV Year 3 - \$100,000
- Phase IV Year 4 - \$50,000
- Phase IV Year 5 - \$50,000
- Planning Unit Support Grants
- Supplemental Watershed Implementation Grants (Operational & Capital)

Dick Price inquired about the budget for meeting facilitation and support. Mike Hermanson indicated that the rates are competitive with others in the consulting industry and the cost was inline with previous work completed for WRIA 54. He also said that work completed for the meeting facilitation and support task is integral to completion of the DIP and the meeting facilitation and DIP preparation tasks should be evaluated together.

Mike Hermanson also described funding that will be available to WRIA 54 after completion of the DIP. Rusty Post described funding available from Ecology for watershed planning including the base grant funding and supplemental implementation project funding. Rusty also indicated that Ecology would be seeking project proposals and ideas from watershed planning groups so that they can begin developing their budget request for the next biennium.

Some specific project proposals were discussed by the group. Larry Guenther discussed a property owner that is potentially interested in a storage project on his property and Bart Haggin discussed funding opportunities that may be appropriate for the Lands Council Beaver Reintroduction project that is currently ongoing. There was some discussion regarding decision making on funding priorities for specific projects. Mike Hermanson proposed that as funding opportunities are available the group will vote on how specific project proposals will be prioritized.

Project Updates: West Plains Geologic Mapping and Basalt Stratigraphy

Bob Derkey discussed the progress on the West Plains Geologic Mapping and Basalt Stratigraphy project. He discussed the importance of defining the basalt stratigraphy to understanding aquifers on the West Plains. He said there is particular utility to the information in the consideration of Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects. He is currently completing the compilation of individual 7.5-minute quadrangle geologic maps into one GIS layer. Linda McCollum stated that the 8 quads that she and Mike McCollum are currently working on are not published and will not be available for inclusion in this project. Bob Derkey indicated that he would use some existing 1:100,000 scale maps to cover that area.

Project Updates: Water Demand Forecast

Mike Hermanson presented the basic elements of the water demand forecast project. He provided a handout that described the goals and objectives developed by the project team and the advisory committee. He described that the model would be structured to evaluate water use by sector and spatially in discrete units of area called forecast units. The final model will be a spreadsheet model and the goal is to have a transparent and accessible model.

Public Comment

Dick Price informed the group that WRIA 59 is working on proposed rule language for exempt well provisions for inclusion in instream flow rules. Clay White, Stevens County Planning Director, has been leading the effort and has presented the ideas to Ken Slattery and Evan Sheffals.

Lloyd Brewer informed the group that the City of Spokane Indoor Water Conservation Rebate program will most likely wrap up in May. The outdoor conservation incentive program will continue.

Admin & General Schedule Announcements

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be June 23, 2010 10 am to noon at the Airway Heights Community Center.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.