

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA

Meeting Summary

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Reanette Boese, *Spokane County*

Todd Henry, *Vera Water & Power*

Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water & Power*

Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*

Walt Edelen, *Spokane Co Conservation District*

Rick Noll, *Spokane Co Conservation District*

Howard Rowley, *Horseshoe Lake, WB-LSR*

Gary Ostheller, *Fairfield Grange*

Tom Wimpy, *Diamond Lake, WB-LSR*

Mike Hermanson, *Spokane County*

Linda Kiefer, *Avista Utilities*

Bill Rickard, *City of Spokane Water Dept*

Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*

Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Assoc., WB-LSR*

Lindsay Chutas, *Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*

Peter Grunte, *Hangman Watershed Resident*

Bryan St. Clair, *Modern Electric Water Company*

Guest Presenters:

Kat Hall, *The Lands Council*

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

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order. Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary for WRIA 55/57 meeting on June 2, 2010 was reviewed and approved.

Updates

West Branch LSR Watershed Committee: Next quarterly meeting, Mon. July 26, 6:00PM, Riverside Fire Station. Greg Sweeney reported on the surprising change in attitudes at the June 8, 2010 outlet property owner meetings conducted by Barry Dutton of PBS&J under WIT contract. After 1-on-1 meetings with key outlet owners, thirty (30) residents and six (6) outlet property owners attended the public meeting to talk about wetland restoration opportunities near the outlet of Eloika Lake and discuss stabilization of summer lake levels.

Conservation: A water conservation field day weekend will take place July 9 and 10th. Reanette Boese will be attending and passing out the Spokane Smartscape flyers.

APC Meetings: Reanette reported they had a meeting in June that discussed geothermal wells and what they mean to water purveyors. There were many concerns regarding engineering, water quality, and maintenance with the potential wells. The original SEPA was withdrawn and a new SEPA is being developed.

Instream Flow Recommendation Comments Deadline: Rusty reported that the comment deadline is July 16th. Recommendations can be sent to him before that date.

If you have questions or comments about the summary, please contact Lindsay Chutas of the SCCD at (509) 535-7274 or lindsay-chutas@sccd.org

Little Spokane TMDL Meeting: The next meeting will be held Wed, July 28th at the Riverside Fire station. Joe Joy will be talking about pollutant load.

Completed Phase IV Project Reports

Little Spokane Groundwater Elevation and Stream Flow Monitoring: Mike Hermanson gave a presentation about the County's groundwater monitoring level studies and SCCD seepage run study.

CVSD: Reanette reported that there the WRIA group got a big thank you from Central Valley Schools with a letter including pictures from the Environmental Education Camp held in April, May, and June

Little Spokane Streamflow Gaging: Rick reported the SCCD is continuing to monitor the tributaries of the LSR, for 10 years of total data. The Scotia Road gage is now being run by Whitworth. The Otter Creek gage has been removed. The SCCD continues to monitor at the main tributaries, Deadman Ck, Dragoon Ck, and the West Branch at the outlet of Eloika Lake.

Announcements:

The "Meet me at the River" program is continuing through the summer. It gets people out onto the Spokane River through guided boat trips.

The 4th Annual Eloika Lake Kayak & Canoe Poker Paddle will take place September 18th. Registration information can be found at the Spokane Parks webpage: www.spokaneparks.org/Parks/page/44/

Aquifer Update: The Spokane/Rathdrum Prairie aquifer rose during the month of June.

Part II: Joint WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 Issues, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Introductions: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and committee members introduced themselves.

Project Updates:

Water Demand Forecast: Mike reported the preliminary model is complete. Now the group is working to refine it. They have identified places to enhance the model. The report will be available on the County's website. There has been a training session to introduce users to the model and its uses.

Smartscape Website: Lindsay reviewed the Spokane Smartscape website and took the group through the site online. The website is available at www.spokanesmartscape.com. The website will be maintained and hosted for 1 year, and will require future funding for future maintenance and hosting in the years to come.

Extra FY 11 Funding: Rusty presented there are an additional \$150,000 to be issued to projects for FY 11. The WIT prioritized the projects to apply for that funding. The projects that were decided as the priority were the Hangman groundwater study, installation of Sutron gages on the Little Spokane River, and a West Plains wellhead and lithology study. Any additional funds were prioritized to go towards Hangman groundwater chemistry and the Stateline USGS gage on Hangman Creek at Tekoa.

2011-2013 Biennia Preliminary Project Proposals: Rusty announced that FY 12 preliminary project proposals are due July 16th.

Announcements: The next meeting will be held Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010 at 9 am at the SCCD. It will be a joint meeting, with the WRIA 56 group meeting first, followed by the joint group, followed by the WRIA 55/57 group.

If you have questions or comments about the summary, please contact Lindsay Chutas of the SCCD at (509) 535-7274 or lindsay-chutas@sccd.org

Part III: WRIA 56 Issues, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Review and Approve Meeting Summary: The summary of the June meeting was approved with the following changes: Rick Noll's name was misspelled and change "seen" to "seed" under the Direct Seed Mentoring Project update.

Bi-State Meeting: No meeting was held so there is nothing to report.

AWEP Proposal Report: Walt reported the AWEP Proposal was recently accepted for \$225,000 for cross-stateline BMP projects in the Hangman Creek Watershed. Projects now need to be coordinated with cooperating agencies. Walt stressed the money is not held in grant form, but is instead issued by the NRCS for each project as necessary.

319 Centennial Grant: Walt reported the funding for the Direct Seed and livestock mentoring program is on its way. Some of the funds may be used as administration funds for the AWEP projects.

Groundwater Monitoring: Rick reported the project is now entering Phase 3. New wells will be drilled, water chemistry analyzed, and a report will be finished by June 2011. Rusty suggested the report be finished earlier in the Spring as to help use any additional funding. Rick agreed this was a good idea.

Beaver Solution: Kat Hall presented the Lands Council findings for their Beaver Solution project in the Hangman Watershed. They found 37 miles of suitable habitat for beavers in the watershed. California Creek, Rock Creek, and the section of Hangman Creek between Rattlers Run and the Rock Creek confluence has the majority of the suitable reintroduction areas. The study estimated reintroduction of beavers could have a 3885 acre/ft of increased total water storage. She reported the reintroduction of beavers could help improve water quality, storage, and late season flows in the Hangman watershed

Announcements:

Reallocation of Funds: Gary suggested we reallocate the funding that was previously approved for a study to find potential reforestation sites in the Rock Creek watershed to funding the USGS Stateline gage if the Coeur d'Alene tribe is unwilling to provide the rest of the necessary funding. If the Stateline gage is fully funded, he suggested that the money gets reallocated to go towards irrigation efficiency in the watershed. The suggestion was approved by the WIT members.

2011-2013 Biennia Preliminary Project Proposals: Walt requested the proposals are to him by July 14th in order to meet the July 16th deadline.