

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday, August 4, 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, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</i>	Dale Gill, <i>Resident</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>	Bryan St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water Company</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Lindsay Chutas, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake, WB-LSR</i>	Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>
Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Watershed Resident</i>	Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>

Part I: WRIA 56 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

Project Updates

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. The Bi-State group will work together to work on BMPs across state lines in the Hangman Watershed. The AWEP program is for land owners to implement direct seed practices as well as livestock improvement projects. Some projects will be started this fall with the hope of submitting additional proposals for Phase II funding.

319 Centennial Grant: Walt reported the \$250,000 of 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. The contract is in negotiation with Ecology at this time.

Hangman Groundwater Monitoring: The Spangle well is finishing early in August. Pressure transducers are to be installed for long term monitoring of the 6 wells. Additional wells will be added in Phase 3 of the project. Their locations are yet to be determined.

Scope of Work FY 11

Walt handed out a draft of the 2010-2011 WRIA 56 budget with the scope of work and tasks. The tasks to be completed are as follows: 1: Project Administration; 2.1: USGS Gage Operation and Maintenance Funding; 2.2: Water Demand Forecasting; 2.3: Small Town Leak Detection Program; 2.4: Irrigation Efficiency Program, 2.6: Routine Stream Gauge Maintenance. Task 2.5, Rockford Reforestation Initiative has been eliminated and the

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funding for that project has been added to task 2.1. Task 2.3 was discussed as to whether it is better to purchase equipment and training for leak detection in the small towns or to hire a professional leak detection service for the small towns. Bryan, Ty, Steve and Bill recommended hiring a professional for a more cost effective job. The final verdict is yet to be determined.

Comments:

Harvey Morrison from Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited asked about the Murdoch Project the SCCD will be doing next summer. Walt discussed the project details with the group.

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

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order. Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary for Joint WRIA meeting on July 7, 2010 was reviewed and approved with the following changes: Bryan St. Clair was misspelled, details added to the West Branch LSR update, Joy Joy was changed to Joe Joy, details were added to the CVSD report, and location and time details were added to the Extra FY funding report.

Central Valley School Environmental Education Camp Presentation

Tim Nootenboom and Chris Berard gave a brief overview of the Central Valley Schools Environmental Education Camp program. They thanked the WIT for providing funding for a successful program that provided a large amount of information and learning opportunity to the 5th graders of the CVSD.

2011-2013 Biennia Implementation Project Proposals

The following preliminary proposals were submitted to Ecology for funding consideration:

- McKenzie Conservation Area Wetland Enhancement (WRIA 57)
- Beaver Restoration on Hangman Creek (WRIA 56)
- Small Town Leak Repair (INI) Implementation (WRIA 56)
- Irrigation Efficiency Audits and Equipment (WRIA 56)
- Drought Management Plan (WRIA 56)
- Sediment Sampling Study (WRIA 56)
- Fish Barrier Removal Project-Hangman Creek (WRIA 56)
- Little Spokane Aquifer Investigation (WRIA 55)
- Water Availability and Sustainability Investigation Standards, WRIA 54

FY 11 Extra Funds

Rusty announced the grants that have been chosen and will be receiving funding from the extra FY 11 funds unless the money is needed to balance the state budget.

- Extending Groundwater Monitoring Project (WRIA 56): \$68,000
- Sutron Gage Upgrades in Little Spokane River: \$12,000
- Gage Upgrade in WRIA 59: \$29,000
- West Plains hydrogeology well: \$30,000
- Water Demand Forecasting (Spokane County): \$15,000

Rusty stressed that our collaboration across watersheds and agencies and successful completion of previous projects has been the key to successfully obtaining grants.

Part III: WRIA 55/57 Issues, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Updates:

Eloika Lake Outlet Report: The Eloika Lake Outlet report has been finished. The report summarized that key landowners have met to discuss important issues with keeping the lake level higher. Barry Dutton from PBS&J met with 6 landowners and discussed the benefits of holding the water level higher into the summer to keep the flows higher in the West Branch of the Little Spokane River as well as the Little Spokane River and programs that can fund the project. The next steps for the project are to get all landowners to agree on the ideal lake level, what kind

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of control structure is needed, and possibly establish a lake improvement district. Before any of this happens, however, all landowners must come to an agreement to make this project a priority and be agreeable to it. The report can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/Home.asp>.

Eloika Lake Aquatic Weed Control Project: Herbicides were applied to the lake July 19. The effectiveness of this on the milfoil communities is now being monitored. A lake tour is scheduled for Friday, Aug 6.

Conservation: Spokane County is working on creating a water conservation rebate and education program for the Little Spokane Watershed. Ecos might be involved as the check writer for the rebates. Most of the rebates will be for toilets and washing machines. There will also be a significant education program on outdoor water conservation.

Deadman Creek Fish Barrier Removal Project: The SCCD has installed a new bridge on Deadman Creek as part of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The project opened 12 miles of habitat on the upper part of Deadman Creek. The project took 2 weeks, and the final riparian planting at the project will take place this fall.

APC Meetings: The next meeting will be held in September.

LSR Soil Sampling: The SCCD is conducting soil sampling in the LSR subwatersheds as part of a comprehensive phosphorus study.

LSR Seepage Run: Another seepage run study will be conducted on the LSR this fall by the Spokane County Conservation District.

McKenzie Conservation Area: Ben Brattebo presented about the recently completed study at the McKenzie conservation area, northwest of Newman Lake. The project included a topographical survey, wetland delineation, installation of shallow groundwater monitoring wells, two soil borings, and an investigative summary report. The study found that wetland enhancement is feasible in 97 of the 106 acres. The study report can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/Home.asp>.

Announcements:

- Reanette handed out the FY 10 report
- Steve reported the flows on the river are around 1200 cfs recently, and the aquifer went down 4 ft in 2 weeks when the dams were closed.
- Howard Rowley reported discussions during the West Branch meeting of concerns about how the Rustler's Gulch property is being misused.
- Spokane County has applied for an RCO grant for construction in the Saltese Flats for restoration enhancement. They will be presenting next week at the RCO office in Olympia.