

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 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*

Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water & Power*

Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*

Walt Edelen, *Spokane Co Conservation District*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*

Howard Rowley, *Horseshoe Lake, WB-LSR*

Rick Noll, *Spokane Co Conservation District*

Todd McLaughlin, *Pend Oreille Co*

Harvey Morrison, *Trout Unlimited*

Todd Henry, *Vera Water & Power*

Doug Greenlund, *City of Spokane*

Mike Hermanson, *Spokane County*

Bill Rickard, *City of Spokane Water Dept*

Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*

Bryan St. Clair, *Modern Electric Water Company*

Lindsay Chutas, *Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator*

Gary Ostheller, *Fairfield Grange*

Doug Greenlund, *City of Spokane*

Linda Kiefer, *Avista*

Tom Wimpy, *Diamond Lake*

Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Association*

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

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

Project Updates

Eloika Lake: Greg Sweeney reported on the success of the outlet meetings and lake level discussions. He mentioned that the next challenge is funding sources and what to do next. The aquatic weed management application was a success. September 18th is the Eloika Lake Poker Paddle. Rick asked about potential hydraulic modeling at the outlet of Eloika Lake which will be discussed at a later date.

Rustlers Gulch: Todd McLaughlin reported on the happenings at the Rustlers Gulch Wildlife area. A Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was formed to work on a recovery program for restoration. The CAG is working on a grant application to Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife that needs to be done quickly. They are looking at upland restoration work for weed control. A graduate student will be providing the master plan for the area.

Conservation: Reanette and Rob met with Carol Mack and Dixie Chichester of WSU Pend Oreille Extension, Mike Lithgow of Pend Oreille County, and Brook Beeler of Ecology about the Little Spokane Conservation Program. They are planning a new website, Little Spokane WaterSmart, which will include information about rebates and other water resource issues in the Little Spokane Watershed.

Rob announced that the county indoor program has issued more rebates in the later part of the summer. Spokane County is developing a program for rebates for multifamily residences and will work on rebates for industrial users next. The City of Spokane gave out all of the budgeted indoor rebates but is considering offering them again next year. They want to extend the outdoor conservation rebate program to next year. Anyone interested in helping fund irrigation classes next year, please talk to Doug Greenlund.

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

Instream Flow update: Avista conducted a study on the aesthetics in the north channel for the 401 certification. A meeting on the State's recommendations will be held September 28, from 1 to 3 at SCCD. Rusty will send out a compilation of comments and wants suggestions of agenda topics and structure.

Last week Ecology sent out a news release – but no letters – asking junior water rights holders to stop the use of surface water for irrigation.

Sue Kale of USGS contacted Rob Lindsay about developing a proposal to do hydrogeologic work in the Little Spokane Watershed.

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 on September 14th.

Comments:

Walt brought up the AWEP funding source as a potential place for more funding in the LSR. The CCPI source as part of the AWEP program could potentially work well with the wildlife and habitat issues in the LSR. There is a potential for NRCS personnel to meet to discuss the program at an upcoming meeting.

Rob announced that Spokane County did not get the state grant for Saltese Flats restoration. Next grant application cycle they will try a different category.

Todd McLaughlin is hoping to get a high water mark training course on the east side of the state. Contact him or the coastal training center if you are interested.

Part II: Joint WRIA 56 and WRIA 55/57 Issues, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 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 August 4, 2010 was approved with the following changes: plains was misspelled in the Extra FY11 funds report, and Rusty added that the successful completion of projects was also key in successfully obtaining grants.

FY 11 Funds Update: Rusty reported that the extra FY 11 funds have been tabled until further notice. The funds are being held instead of going to the projects reported last month because of the pending 6% state budget cut. Base grant funds the second half of the biennium for FY11 projects will still be going through as planned. Rusty urged us all to look at how we are spending those FY 11 funds and if there is anything that has changed priorities. If so, a grant amendment can be drawn up.

Residential Water Use Survey: Stacey Selcho of the SCCD presented about the Water on Wheels Program and the Wheat Week program. She discussed various details of the programs and their target audiences. She also discussed how she used the programs as a way to distribute the Residential Water Use Survey to members of the county. Mike Hermanson then gave a presentation on the findings from the survey. This is the link to the presentation and the final report: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/Home.asp>

Regional Health/Ecology Disconnect for Water Supply Discussion: Walt led a discussion about the need for an action plan to update current recommendations and laws for water use for developers. The plan needs to involve discussions between Spokane County Planning, the Regional Health District, the Department of Ecology and local politicians to solve the problem of water rights granted to development and amount of water that is actually available in the area. WRIA 54 has the Detail Implementation Plan which outlines the recommendations to these entities. The group suggested that WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 step up and support the plan of WRIA 54 to these agencies to avoid the situation that has occurred in the Kittitas Basin. Rusty offered to host a meeting to discuss this problem further. The date of that meeting has yet to be announced.

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

WRIA 56 Updates:

AWEP Proposal Report: Walt reported the AWEP projects have the contracts finished for this year and will be applying for more funding for other projects in the next funding cycle.

Bi-State Meeting: The last meeting was held the middle of August. Walt will be sending a summary from that meeting. The group is working on projects across state lines and continues to look for more funding sources to accommodate their efforts. The AWEP program is a successful source for working across state lines.

Leak Detection Program/Irrigation Efficiency program: Walt is going to meet with the water purveyors to figure out the best plan of action for these programs. There is \$10,000 for the irrigation program and \$16,000 for the leak detection program.

Hangman Groundwater Monitoring: The Spangle well is finished drilling. The latest chemistry results were presented. Preliminary age dates from carbon isotope dating indicate that the water in the basalt aquifers is between 5,000 and 15,000 years old. A representative from Northwest Land and Water will be at the next meeting to do an update on the progress of the project and to report their findings up to this point. One more well is scheduled to be drilled, but the location is yet to be determined. Mike and Reanette reminded the SCCD that the city has a few deep water monitoring wells located on 64th and Freya that may be able to be used for the study.

Rockford Project Dredging Study: Rick reported that a Hec-RAS model was run to analyze the effects of dredging on Rock Creek at the town of Rockford. The study found that dredging does not provide flood relief. The study also found that the bridge geometry for the bridge for state route 278 greatly affects the flood hazard. The model predicted that the center pier in the bridge affects the flood potential up to 2 feet.

Announcements:

Walt announced that The Lands Council has submitted proposal for beaver reintroduction to the main stem of Hangman Creek. The plan is for introducing 10 beavers into the creek.

Lindsay announced the next meeting will be October 6, 2010 at the SCCD.