

**Meeting Summary**  
**WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed**  
**September 22, 2010**

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

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

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County  
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County  
Larry Guenther, Stevens County Commissioner  
Dick Price, Stevens County P.U.D  
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department  
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology  
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District  
Wes McCart, Stevens County Farm Bureau, Resident, Stevens County Water Conservancy Board  
Bart Haggin, Lands Council  
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane  
David Luders, Fairchild Air Force Base, Indian Village Estates Water Association  
Linda Kiefer, Avista  
Rick Noll, Spokane County Conservation District  
Kelly Williquette, City of Airway Heights  
Charlie Peterson, Spokane County Conservation District  
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors, Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association  
Craig Volosing, Palisades Neighborhood  
Linda McCullum, Eastern Washington University  
Cynthia Carlstad, Tetra Tech

**CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Cynthia Carlstad opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.

**REVIEW OF JULY AND AUGUST MEETING SUMMARIES**

July meeting summary: As a follow-up, Cynthia reported that she confirmed with Sue Kahle of the USGS that they are using an estimate of 210 gallons per day per capita for domestic water use for the Chamokane Creek study.

August meeting summary: No changes were requested.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Review and Discussion of DIP Revisions**

Cynthia oriented the group to meeting materials:

- Comment response summary – this contains all the comments received and proposed response. All participants should review this to make sure that their comments were addressed to their satisfaction
- Redlined copy of Draft DIP showing proposed revisions.

Cynthia indicated that the plan for today's meeting is to discuss major comments identified on the flip

chart. The group identified a few additional items to discuss: (1) Dick Price requested that the timeline for the watermaster recommendation be deferred so as not to request additional taxes/fees during such a difficult budget times; (2) Wes McCart requested confirmation on discussion for all individual comments noted for discussion on the comment response summary. The redlined version of the DIP was projected onscreen, and additional edits were made during the meeting as described below.

The following is a summary of WIT discussion and actions for each item:

1. List of WIT members – In the body of DIP, list the members that have actively worked on the DIP. The official roster of WIT members will be included in an appendix as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between participating governments to develop the DIP.
2. Instream Flow Memorandum – Incorrect reference to appendix to DIP will be corrected to reference Appendix B of the WRIA 54 Watershed Plan rather than the DIP. The Instream Flow Memo is also available as a pdf on Spokane County’s website.
3. Chapter 4 - DIP review versus update language – Edits were made to the DIP to indicate a biennial review, with updates as needed. Separate from this review, the DIP specifies a biannual report that summarizes accomplishments and lessons learned, and to document completed projects and activities.
4. Chapter 6 Implementation Schedule – clarified that Spokane County will continue to serve as lead agency as funding allows. The group acknowledged that the WRIA 54 WIT could continue to meet and do work if funding was not available, but there is no expectation that Spokane County would absorb the financial burden and workload of lead agency without funding support.
5. Chapter 5 Planned Future Use of Inchoate Municipal Water Rights – Lloyd Brewer provided text for this section with his comments, but part of his proposed addition was missed. The complete section was added to the DIP during the meeting and minor editing was done. It was agreed that additional review time was needed for individual WIT members to consider the added language.
6. Chapter 2 – Prioritization Process – Cynthia pointed out revisions she made to the DIP to simplify the discussion about the list of high priority projects.
7. Table 2-2 High Priority Projects – The WIT discussed the value of this table. Clarification is needed that this represents a subset of the recommendations in the Watershed Plan, how it was developed, and what it means. It indicates areas of commonalities among a very diverse WIT. Cynthia will add this clarification.
8. Project Summaries (Chapter 3) –
  - Cynthia reviewed the cost category information that she added as part of the revisions. Cost estimates were adjusted in some cases based on the WIT discussion.
  - Project Plan – entries were changed to either “yes” or “no.” Use of the “not needed” classification was discontinued.
  - Approach and action items were edited for WFN-3 (Chamokane Watershed Council) and WQ-1 (Lake Spokane Nonpoint Source).
  - On WRA-1 (Water Resources Funding and Water Master) – Rusty Post provided information about the statutory description of water master duties, and commented that it is fairly different than the job duties described by the WRIA 54 WIT members in their request to Ecology. He indicated these duties could be fulfilled by staff positions other than a water master. Wes McCart commented that WRIA 59 used the water master title with a defined job description that is different than in the statute, and that the Walla Walla water master is a similar situation with regard to job description. Rusty commented that there is discussion at Ecology as to whether this is a high enough priority to watershed groups that watershed planning funding should be used to fund a water master. He suggested that the approach and schedule for the

recommendation be edited to reflect working with Ecology to put definition to this over the next year. The project summary was edited accordingly.

- Other minor edits were made to a few of the project summaries.
9. Lloyd Brewer raised the point that perhaps the Spokane Tribe's water rights should be included in the compilation of inchoate water rights in Table 5-1. There was discussion regarding the differences between the Tribe's rights (federally reserved, unquantified), and similarities (represents potentially committed water.) Because the Tribe does not meet the current definition of a municipal purveyor, they were not added to the table.
  10. Lloyd Brewer requested that two items be noted; these do not require edits to the DIP:
    - There are ongoing discussions on West Plains among water purveyors, separate from DIP recommendations.
    - Coordination with water conservation efforts is ongoing; some preceded WRIA 54 recommendations, and will continue.

## Next Steps

The process for finalizing the DIP will be as follows. The new file with edits made at meeting will be distributed for additional review. Cynthia requested that each WIT member respond that they are ok with the revised DIP so that she can finalize it, and distribute the draft Final DIP for each entity to complete their internal review prior to formal WIT approval. Tentatively the WIT plans to approve the DIP at its November meeting. The normal November meeting date may be moved to avoid having a meeting the day before Thanksgiving when many members may be unavailable.

Mike Hermanson announced that as soon as the DIP is approved by the WIT, they are eligible for an additional \$70,000 to use for Phase IV implementation. The \$70,000 must be used prior to June 30, 2011. The group will meet in October to discuss how they wish to use this funding.

## ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wes McCart announced that the WRIA 59 September 30 meeting will focus on water banking, including a presentation from an Ecology specialist. The meeting location will be at the Stevens County Conservation District office in Colville. Charlie Kessler will send out an announcement to Rob Lindsay that can be forwarded to both WRIA 54 and 55/57/56 distribution lists.

Charlie Kessler announced that the Chamokane Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will hold its field trip on Saturday, September 25. The trip will be leaving from the Springdale Town Hall at 9:00.

WRIA 54 will meet again on October 27 at this location, from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Rusty gave a brief overview of the water management discussion at the state level:

- Last year the state legislature requested that Ecology provide an analysis and recommendations for improvements to the function and funding structure for the water resource program. The report *2010 Report to the Legislature and Governor: Water Resources Program Functions and Funding Structure (6267 Report)* was released in this month.
- Water Smart Washington – This is an online forum, where Ecology poses a weekly question related to function and funding for the water resources and watershed programs.

- Both of the above will influence Ecology's request to the governor for 2011-2013 biennium. There is a general plan to transition to a more fee-based funding basis for water resources and shoreline programs within Ecology.

## **ADJOURN**

Cynthia adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.