

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
November 17, 2010

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

Watershed Implementation Team members and guests in attendance / recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Dick Price, Stevens County P.U.D
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Kelly Williquette, Airway Heights
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Rick Noll, Spokane County Conservation District
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors, Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Assoc.
Craig Volosing, Palisades Neighborhood
Mike Hamilton, Geologist
Bart Haggin, Lands Council
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Cynthia Carlstad, Tetra Tech

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Cynthia Carlstad opened the meeting at 9:00 am and reviewed the agenda. Participants introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Price commented that Ecology has released several major proposals that they intend to take to the legislature this year— fees for water rights, changes to the relinquishment law, and proposals for developing water budgets statewide. He commented that the proposed fees are very significant – for Stevens PUD the proposed fees would \$16,500 per year.

Jeanne Barnes commented that the upgrades to Nine Mile Dam are operational, and appear to be a big improvement when the reservoir is at high levels.

DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FIRST APPROVAL

The WIT accomplished a first approval of the Detailed Implementation Plan through a consensus approval.

A special meeting will be scheduled by Mike Hermanson to obtain a second approval after he receives confirmation from Kelly Williquette and Lloyd Brewer that their cities have completed their internal processes.

PHASE IV BASE GRANT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

This discussion was continued from the October WIT meeting. The WIT discussed proposed projects that could be funded through the remaining Phase IV base grant funding. Cynthia posted the flip-charted list of projects from the October meeting, and updated attendees that the only changes are in the West Plains Hydrogeology

project – the project listed below (#5) represents the prioritized candidate project decided upon at the November 10 West Plains Hydrogeology subcommittee meeting.

Projects were listed on a flip chart; the following table provides a summary of projects.

Implementation Project	Proposed Budget
1. <i>Chamokane Watershed Council</i> – formalize council, establish bi-laws. Would provide this already-formed group an autonomous voice and ability to seek grant funding.	\$2,000
2. <i>Bradford Storage</i> – off-channel storage pond to capture a portion of spring runoff in the Chamokane watershed to be released during summer low flow season. Funds feasibility study and engineering design. Possible cost share opportunities with the Spokane Tribe were identified for a subsequent phase. A number of considerations related to the private ownership of the site were discussed, including assurance that project would endure if ownership of ranch changed.	\$20,000
3. <i>Deep/Coulee Creeks Riparian Restoration</i> – Lands Council project focuses on riparian planting and identification of suitable sites for beaver re-introduction. Some work has already been done; this funding would allow continuance of the work. Most labor is likely to be done by volunteers. Probable initial focus would be on getting vegetation established prior to any introduction of beaver. Some questioned the merits of this type of enhanced storage in this watershed since it is not a flashy system. A possible relationship to the dissolved oxygen TMDL was identified. It was unclear whether the requested \$10,000 would fund the entire project.	\$10,000
4. <i>Spokane River Forum Conference</i> – annual conference focused on Spokane River topics and issues. Funding would be used to help pay for venue rental and other logistics and registration expenses. Previous conferences have been well-attended and well-balanced; considered valuable by many participants.	\$3,000
5. <i>West Plains Hydrogeology Database Development and Analysis</i> – detailed stratigraphy description for dense well network of approximately 1,000 wells. Includes development and use of 3D database and analysis tool (RockWorks). This builds toward a predictive model that accurately represents groundwater flow by beginning to characterize important aquifer parameters, such as aquifer thickness and lithology.	\$50,000

Project descriptions were available as handouts for most of the projects listed above, and those project proponents present provided a brief verbal description of their project. Each project was discussed, including scope and products, whether it would be feasible to reduce the budget and still achieve project objectives.

Projects were selected through the following process:

1. Following discussion of all projects, participants voted their project priorities through a secret ballot. Votes were tallied and the results are shown in the table below.
2. Based on the voting, project ranks were determined as follows:
 - West Plains Hydrogeology Database Development and Analysis received the most votes as a #1 priority, therefore it was determined to be #1 in rank.
 - Bradford Storage and Spokane River Forum Conference received the second highest number of votes between #1 and #2 priority votes, therefore they were determined to be tied for #2 in rank.
 - Chamokane Watershed Council received the next highest number of #1 and #2 priority votes, therefore it was ranked #3.
 - Deep/Coulee Creeks Riparian Restoration received the lowest number of #1 and #2 priority votes, therefore it was ranked #4.
3. Participants then discussed how to allocate the available funding, assuming a \$70,000 total funding amount. The group desired to fund the #1 and both #2 ranked projects if possible. Charlie Kessler, the proponent for the Bradford Storage project offered that the proposed budget could be reduced by \$5,000 to allow funding for the Spokane River Forum Conference and the Chamokane Watershed Council. Everyone agreed with this approach.

Implementation Project	Proposed Budget	Tally of WIT Votes for Priority of Each Project					Rank Based on Voting
		#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	
1. Chamokane Watershed Council	\$2,000	1	3	2	4	0	#3
2. Bradford Storage	\$20,000	1	4	3	4	0	#2
3. Deep/Coulee Creeks Riparian Restoration	\$10,000	0	1	3	2	3	#4
4. Spokane River Forum Conference	\$3,000	1	4	3	0	3	#2
5. West Plains Hydrogeology Database Development and Analysis	\$50,000	10	1	2	0	0	#1

Based on the discussion and process described above, the following projects will be funded through the Phase IV Base Grant through June 30, 2011:

1. West Plains Hydrogeology Database Development and Analysis - \$50,000

2. Bradford Storage Project - \$15,000
3. Spokane River Forum Conference - \$3,000
4. Chamokane Watershed Council - \$2,000

Mike Hermanson will coordinate the needed interlocal agreements with project proponents.

WATERSHED PLANNING SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT APPLICATIONS (FY 2011-2013)

Since only one project was submitted, no ranking was conducted. Mike Hermanson offered to send the application materials to WIT members again, and will coordinate a ranking process if additional project applications are received.

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special WRIA 54 WIT meeting will be scheduled in December to complete the second approval for the Detailed Implementation Plan.

The next regular WRIA 54 WIT meeting will be in February – fourth Wednesday at the Airway Heights location.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment.

ADJOURN

Cynthia adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.