

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

## ***Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting***

Wednesday, Dec 8, 2010

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

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room  
Spokane, WA

**Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:**

Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water &amp; Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator</i>	
Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>	Tom Wimpy <i>Diamond Lake, WB-LSR</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Bryan St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	

**Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Introductions:** Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with the following changes: "district conservationists" was changed to "Idaho and Washington State conservationists" in the AWEPP proposal report.

**Project Updates**

**Conservation:** Flyers for the Little Spokane Water Smart rebate program have been distributed to water purveyors for use as bill inserts in LSR residents water bills. The program was announced in the Deer Park Tribune and Spokesman Review on November 3. Ten applications are now in process. Ecology has offered to extend the rebate program through the end of 2011 as long as they are not used up in order to capture the high rebate season of the summer. Spokane County recognizes that information about the program needs to be more widely distributed.

**Simonson Dairy Project at Wethey Creek:** The SCCD is working with the Dept. of Ecology, the Dept of Agriculture, US Fish and Wildlife and the landowners to address livestock access to Wethey Creek. The SCCD submitted a successful Terry Husseman Fund application and are planning to implement several BMPs, such as; off-creek watering facilities, riparian fencing, and storage tanks.

**West Branch-LSR:** The West Branch committee has been consumed with Rustlers Gulch issues. A work party got together on November 6 at Rustlers Gulch to clean up some of the area. Pend Oreille County purchased property to the NE of Rustlers Gulch. A small group of landowners are looking for a milfoil grant for applying herbicide in Horseshoe Lake. Eloika Lake will be in its second year of milfoil herbicide application. January 24<sup>th</sup> is the next West Branch meeting. Feb 5 is the Eastern WA / North ID Regional Lake Conference at the Spokane Community College Student Union Building.

**Special Program Grants Discussion:**

**Operational Grants:**

*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](mailto:lindsay-chutas@sccd.org)*

*Water Resource Study of the Unconsolidated Groundwater Systems of the Little Spokane River Basin, Spokane County, Washington:* This project is designed to characterize the hydrogeologic and ground- and surface-water interactions within the basin and obtain an adequate data set to be used during the construction and calibration of a groundwater flow model, and then use that flow model to evaluate regional impacts of different groundwater use and climate scenarios on the surface-water system. The project is a 4 year project with 2 phases. Total Project Budget: \$1,145,000

**Capital Project Grants:**

*McKenzie Conservation Area Wetland Enhancement:* This project will enhance approximately 100 acres of degraded wetlands at the McKenzie Conservation Area in Spokane County. Wetland enhancement on the site will delay water runoff and slow recharge to Newman Lake and the downstream Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Total Project Budget: \$980,000

The group agreed to support both of these proposals for submittal to Ecology.

**Announcements:**

**Matrix Updates:** Reanette and Lindsay have been working on revising the implementation matrix. There were no changes or updates from the group.

The WIT decided to not meet in January. We will regroup and meet in February.

**Part II: WRIA 56 Issues, 10:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Project Updates:**

**Leak Detection Program:** Walt reported the contract with American Leak Detection is being finalized . They are coordinating with the towns to efficiently conduct the work in a timely manner before the irrigation starts this spring. The Conservation Commission will be contributing an additional \$15,000 for the project.

**Irrigation Efficiency program:** Lindsay reported the contract for the project is being finalized. Freeman School committed to \$1000 to put towards the project.

**Livestock Inventory:** The SCCD will be conducting a livestock inventory of the Hangman Watershed. The winter inventory will be completed soon, weather permitting. They will do a summer inventory in summer 2011.

**Groundwater Project:** Drilling of the Valleyford well is underway.

**Special Program Grants Discussion:**

**Operational Grants:**

*Hangman Creek State Line Gage Funding:* This project would provide operation and maintenance funding for the USGS gage on Hangman Creek at Tekoa through FY 13. Total Budget: \$36,000

*Hangman Creek Suspended Sediment Reduction Evaluation:* This project is a follow-up to the suspended sediment study completed in 1998. The objectives of the project are to evaluate if recent changes to direct-seed tillage have reduced the sediment load in Hangman Creek and characterize the sediment load from the Idaho and Washington portions of the Hangman Creek watershed. Total Budget: \$205,000

**Capital Project Grants:**

*Hangman Creek Irrigation Efficiency Program:* The program will provide funding to evaluate the current use and improve the efficiency in public irrigation facilities. It will focus on irrigation systems of schools, cemeteries, golf courses, parks, etc. The program will offer professional irrigation audits, new (upgrade) irrigation designs, retrofit designs, and outreach/awareness to all residents. The program will also include cost-share for construction and materials. Total Budget: \$216,600.

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*Hangman Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project:* This project will remove several key fish barriers within the Hangman Creek watershed. Outreach efforts will focus on raising awareness of fish passage to residents. Total Budget: \$223,300.

The group decided to rank the projects in the following order:

Operational Grants: 1. Hangman Creek State Line Gage Funding. 2. Hangman Creek Suspended Sediment Reduction Evaluation.

Capital Project Grants: 1. Hangman Creek Irrigation Efficiency Program. 2. Hangman Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project.

**Announcements:**

There will be no January meeting. The next meeting will be in February.