

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

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

**Tuesday February 1, 2011**

**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>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCCD, Facilitator</i>	Rick Noll, <i>SCCD</i>
Bill Harmon, <i>Eloika Lake Association, WB LSR</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Bryan St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Valley Resident</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	

**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. The meeting summary was approved with the following changes: Walt reworded the description of the Simonson Dairy Project at Wethy Creek, and the word "and" was replaced with "the" in the description of the Hangman Creek Irrigation Efficiency Program.

**Project Updates**

**Little Spokane Conservation:** Spokane County has accepted rebate applications from 69 households, totaling \$7642. An outdoor water conservation workshop was held in Deer Park on Jan 29, organized by Dixie Chichester of WSU Extension Pend Oreille County. Other presenters included the WSU extension from Spokane and Stevens Counties. There will be more conservation workshops held March 3 at Diamond Lake Fire Station, March 29 at the Sacheen Lake Fire Station, and April 14 at the Pend Oreille Master Gardener Water Wise Demonstration Site. All of these dates are listed on the Little Spokane Watersmart Website, and in the Whitworth Water District billing statements.

**Water Conservation:**

- The City of Spokane Water Stewardship Program has been moved to the Water Department. Bill Rickard is now the contact for that.
- County Utilities will continue its rebate program with ECOS running it, and will be adding a task item to more aggressively pursue multi-family units.

**West Branch-LSR:** A West Branch-LSR meeting was held January 24<sup>th</sup>.

- A presentation was given about bird counts on the Pend Oreille River.
- The TMDL for the LSR is going to public comment next month and Rick Noll gave a presentation about phosphorus reduction at the TMDL meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It was found that full riparian shading is the best thing that can help decrease and/or moderate the water temperature for the river.
- Rick and Walt explained the SCCD project to study the control on the outlet of Eloika Lake funded by the WA Conservation Commission Engineering Funds (\$10,000). A consultant will be hired and will run a HEC-RAS model to determine the effectiveness of bioengineering a lake level increase by 1-2 feet.
- The Eloika Lake association has made good progress in discussions with landowners about potential wetland sites on the southern end of Eloika Lake. The PBS&J report greatly aided these discussions.

*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)*

- The Sacheen Lake homeowners are having a dispute over sewerage around the lake.

The SCCD will be installing new stream Sutron gages where their current gages exist on the LSR tributaries (outlet of Eloika Lake, Deadman Creek, and Dragoon Creek) funded by Ecology FY 11 funds.

The NE Regional Lakes Conference was Feb 5, 2011 and the NALMS Conference is Oct 26-28, 2011. Rusty stressed that these lake conferences are great opportunities to showcase work in lakes.

**Implementation Matrix Updates:** The WIT looked at the implementation matrix and the matrix summary. Format changes were suggested for the matrix summary regarding formatting and detail. The group decided to submit updates by email to Lindsay. She will assign due dates for those updates.

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

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

**Z-Bill Draft Z.0121.7/11 7<sup>th</sup> Draft Discussion:** Rusty gave a brief summary of the bill that has been dropped to the legislature. The bill is aimed to correct things in existing state law regarding water resources and rights. It addresses agriculture, water rights, funding, transfers, and withdrawals from closed and nearly closed basins.. Section 6 concerns funding for watershed planning, and extending phase IV from 5 years to 9 years at \$50,000 with 50% match. The group decided to have Reanette draft a letter of support for section 6.

## **Part III: WRIA 56 Issues, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Introductions:** Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order.

### **Project Updates:**

**Leak Detection Program:** The leak detection class will be held February 16 at the Fairfield Community Center.

**Irrigation Efficiency program:** The SCCD is working with Ewing Irrigation on a contract. Ewing does not do installation of irrigation systems, but will do the design, audit and class. A contractor, to be determined, will do the installation.

**Livestock Inventory:** The SCCD has completed the winter inventory. They are now working on a livestock program. They will do conduct a second inventory in summer 2011.

**Groundwater Project:** The groundwater project has finished all of the field work. The last of the chemistry results are due back soon and the final report is being completed. The group would like a final presentation by Northwest Land and Water.

**AWEP:** The next round of funding is available and the SCCD is seeking applications. The application deadline is March 4, with contract obligations due in May of 2011. \$200,000 has been allotted to the program for this year. The program supports projects for direct seed, stream bank stabilization, and livestock improvements in Hangman Creek.

**Implementation Matrix Updates:** The WIT looked over the implementation matrix and matrix summary. The group would like the ongoing projects and completed projects title in the implementation summary to reflect that some projects have fulfilled the recommendations, but are ongoing. Wording such as "Addressed According to Recommendation" would be appropriate. The group would like a list of acronyms to accompany the summary, as well as page numbers. The group looked into recommendation 10.c. Although completed, we should distribute stormwater information to small towns. Rick recommended sending notice to towns that their contract engineering firm follows stormwater recommendations. Ecology should check on this.