

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

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

**Wednesday March 2, 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, *Spokane County*

Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*

Lindsay Chutas, *SCCD, Facilitator*

Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*

Peter Grunte, *Hangman Valley Resident*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*

Doug Greenlund, *City of Spokane*

Todd Henry, *Vera Water and Power*

Walt Edelen, *SCCD*

Rick Noll, *SCCD*

Ty Wick, *SAJB*

Tom Wimpy, *Diamond Lake*

Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Association*

### **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 minutes from the February 1 meeting were approved with no changes.

#### **Project Updates**

**Forestry Management Practices:** Garth Davis from the SCCD discussed forest management practices with the group. He explained that a 20 acre or smaller parcel in the county requires a stewardship plan. The Critical Areas Ordinance explains this. The Spokane County Wildfire Prevention Plan designates areas in the county that have good defensible space. Additionally, proper defensible space preparation encourages trees and shrubs to remain in place, which helps with water infiltration and runoff reduction. The developers have control of the changing or modifying slopes in the development process and there are no formal laws that prevent this. The SCCD and the Lands Council have attempted to change this, but with little success to date.

#### **Water Conservation:**

- The Little Spokane River Watershed Conservation Program now has 140 homeowner applications from customers from Whitworth Water District, Water District 3, and Deer Park. Many of the applications are from private well owners. Water District 3 is offering additional incentives to some customers in the Little Spokane.
- The Spokane County Rebate program is ongoing.
- WSU Extension - Pend Oreille continues to offer workshops to Little Spokane homeowners on ways to save water on landscapes.

#### **West Branch-LSR:**

- The Eloika Lake newsletter will be coming out in March. It will contain the LSR conservation program information.
- The next West Branch meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Fire District. The Rustlers Gulch CAG met last Wednesday. A trail access plan is in review.
- Year 2 of the milfoil treatments on Eloika Lake will be implemented in June.
- An aquatic weed identification workshop for Eloika Lake is in the works.

*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 SCCD has a contract for a surface water flow model at the outlet of Eloika Lake to evaluate the hydraulics.
- The Horseshoe Lake Association was granted a small grant for planning management purposes
- The Sacheen Lake sewer bond issue did not pass.

#### **Other Updates**

- The SCCD will be updating and installing new stream Sutron technology to the current LSR gages in the watershed. (outlet of Eloika Lake, Deadman Creek, and Dragoon Creek). These updates were funded by Ecology FY 11 funds.
- The Little Spokane River TMDL Improvement plan is being readied for public comment.
- The maintenance and operation of the USGS Elk Gage was funded by Whitworth Water District for another year.
- The SCCD is on the 319/Centennial Grant draft offer list to conduct livestock improvements on Bear Creek.

#### **Suggestions for changes to implementation plan:**

Reanette handed out delayed activities from the implementation matrix that highlighted activities required by the WIT. The group looked at the recommendations and cleared up their details.

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

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

#### **Project Updates:**

- **Bi-State:** The Bi-State group will meet next month. AWEF funding is open and will close for applications on April 1.
- **Leak Detection Program:** The leak detection workshop was held February 16 at the Fairfield Community Center. 25 people attended. American Leak Detection has begun work on the small towns in the watershed. The first survey was done at the Hangman Hills community and a report has been created.
- **Irrigation Efficiency program:** The irrigation efficiency class will be held in May, along with the audit, design and retrofitting of the Freeman High School football field.
- **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. Northwest Land and Water will present final results at the April 6 joint meeting.
- **TMDL:** The Hangman Creek TMDL Implementation plan is online and available for public comment. [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/HangmanCr/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/HangmanCr/)
- **Streambank Restoration:** A 1500' bioengineered stream bank project is scheduled for summer 2011.
- **Wetland Restoration Opportunities:** Avista may provide FERC money to spend on riparian and wetland restoration projects in the Hangman Watershed.

#### **Suggestions for changes to implementation plan:**

Walt suggested that we add the domestic exempt well language from the WRIA 54 plan into the WRIA 56 Implementation Plan. Walt will develop the language to present to the WIT. The change may be done as an amendment.

#### **Priorities for Future Work:**

- **Groundwater Monitoring:** expand into headwaters of Hangman Creek Watershed and toward WRIA 54.
- **Leak Detection Program:** make repairs to small town water systems.
- **Irrigation Efficiency:** do audits of public space irrigation systems and install retrofits to increase efficiency.
- **Direct Seed Work:** provide assistance to producers to adopt direct seed methods to make improvements to water quality.

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- Sediment Sampling: conduct a sediment sampling survey to show how direct seeding changes have positively affected water quality.
- Living Snow Fences: work with landowners who have property on roads to install living snow fences to help with drifting snow on roads.
- Fish Barrier Removal Projects: replace road crossings where fish barriers exist. CCPI funding source could be used.
- SCCD will continue to look for funding for stream break, wetland, and riparian enhancement projects.
- Livestock Improvement Projects
- Stream Gauging: SCCD will continue to maintain their gages on Hangman Creek. They will continue to seek a long term funding source for the USGS gage at Stateline.