

**Meeting Summary**  
**WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed**  
**April 20, 2011**

**Location:** Airway Heights Advanced Water Reclamation Facility, 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  
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department  
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology  
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District  
Bart Haggin, Lands Council  
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane  
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe  
Kelly Williquette, City of Airway Heights  
Bill Shelton, Fairchild Air Force Base  
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association

**CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.

**PHASE IV GRANT PROJECT UPDATES**

**West Plains Hydrogeologic Database**

Mike Hermanson provided an update on this project. At this time all of the data from Mike Hamilton and Linda McCollum has been received and imported into Rockworks. An example of geologic cross sections was shown at the meeting. The data has been reviewed in conjunction with a recently released USGS geologic model of the Columbia Basin Plateau. Surface topography for each of the major geologic units –unconsolidated, Wanapum basalt, Latah interbeds, Grande Ronde basalt, and basement rock- has been completed. The next step is to evaluate the aquifer information. The deliverables will include geologic cross sections, contour maps of each stratigraphic unit, and water level elevation maps. Those in attendance asked various questions about the process of evaluating the data. Rob Lindsay said it is important to communicate the results of this project to West Plains stakeholders. Mike Hermanson will provide a draft format for the deliverables at the next meeting.

**Bradford Storage Project**

Project information was sent to 8 engineering firms, 3 requested additional information, and 1 submitted a proposal. Cunningham Engineering located in Colville was hired for the project and is currently working on the project.

**Chamokane Watershed Council By-Laws**

Terry Holloway with the Stevens County Conservation District is working the Chamokane Watershed Council. An outline of the by-laws was presented at the March 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**Spokane River Forum Conference Support**

Spokane County is working with Spokane River Forum staff to determine the best way to provide support, such as contributing to the facility rental, or printing of conference materials, etc.

## **LEGISLATIVE AND 2011-13 WATERSHED PLANNING BUDGET UPDATE**

Rusty Post provided an update on legislative and watershed planning budget information. At this point each of the budget proposals-Senate, House, and Governor- all include funding for watershed planning, though each are at different funding levels. The best estimate for planning purposes is approximately half the funding that was available during the 2009-11 biennium, though nothing is for sure. Once it is determined what the budget for watershed planning will be Ecology then needs to determine how that funding will be allocated between base funding and project funding and which watershed groups will receive funding. At this point some combination of base funding and project funding is likely.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT IDEAS & PRIORITIES**

Based on the legislative update planning for a budget of \$50,000 for next year was discussed. Rob Lindsay informed the group that WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 are interested in pursuing some of the land use recommendations contained in the WRIA 54 Plan, and Spokane County is interested in developing a group with a wide range of stakeholders to evaluate the minimum requirements for water in development. Rob said that the project would be a joint project between all three WRIs. Mike Hermanson said that the County is interested in continuing hydrogeologic work on the West Plains. This work would most likely involve collection of field data such as water levels and geochemistry. Rusty Post asked if anyone else in the group would like to bring forward project ideas at this point. The group discussed the potential for continued support of the work ongoing in the Chamokane Watershed. Rusty Post suggested that we continue discussing potential projects at the next meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on May 25, 2011 from 10-12 at the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **ADJOURN**

Rusty Post adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.