

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday May 4, 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:

Todd McLaughlin, *Pend Oreille County*

Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*

Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*

Doug Greenlund, *City of Spokane*

Meghan, Lunney, *Avista*

Bill Abrahamse, *Trout Unlimited*

Lindsay Chutas, *SCCD, Facilitator*

Ty Wick, *SAJB*

Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Association*

Howard Rowley, *Horseshoe Lake*

Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Introductions: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and committee members introduced themselves. The meeting minutes from the April 6, 2011 meeting were approved with no changes.

Project Updates

West Branch-LSR/Eloika Lake Updates:

- A west branch meeting was held April 25th. The group updated the implementation matrix and discussed a future project of monitoring lake levels. The West Branch Committee is interested in applying for Phase IV funds to install lake level monitoring equipment in the west branch lakes to monitor surges and changes better. The next meetings will be July 25, and October 4.
- Volunteers have been working on trails at Rustlers Gulch.
- Eloika lake is in year two of herbicide application for milfoil and yellow flag iris.
- The Eloika Lake Association will be having a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Grub and More

Water Conservation:

- Spokane County Utilities indoor water conservation program continues. More information has been sent out and included with bills.
- The LSR Rebate program continues to grow with rebates going out each week. The program has been very successful teaming with Pend Oreille County, WSU extension in Pend Oreille,

Mt Spokane Expansion Project

The WIT discussed the Proposed Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA). The group decided to comment on the proposal by sending a letter to Washington State Parks that Rob Lindsay drafted which states two recommendations from the watershed management plan to preserve vegetation and wetlands in the watershed with the goal of preventing accelerated winter runoff and preserve critical habitat. Rob will also represent the group at the May 18th public meeting to comment on behalf of the watershed management plan's recommendations.

Annual Report

Lindsay reported the changes submitted to the Annual Report have been made and the report is nearly complete.

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

Watershed Management Plan Update

Rob and Lindsay discussed the status of the Watershed Management Plan Update. Rob presented the proposed outline for the updates to the plan, which includes a new chapter with the following sections: technical/legal policy updates, ongoing/completed implementation activities, update of recommendations, and priorities for ongoing implementation.

Announcements

Lindsay asked the group to begin preparing project reports for Ecology grant funded projects, in order to ensure their review process by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2011.

Part II: WRIA 56 Issues, 11:15-12:00 p.m.

Introductions: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order. Committee members reviewed the previous meeting's minutes and approved them.

Project Updates

AWEP- The application period is closed. The contracts have been ranked and farm plans are in the works.

Leak Detection: American Leak Detection has finished the leak detection surveys in the small towns of the watershed. Rockford was the final town completed last week. A report on the findings is pending. The Leak Detection Committee will now make decisions on what how to best use the Conservation Commission Engineering funds to for the program.

Irrigation Efficiency: The irrigation efficiency project is on schedule. The contract with Dew Drop Sprinklers and Landscaping and the MOA with Ewing Irrigation are complete. The irrigation audit at the Freeman High School Football field is scheduled for May 10th.

Annual Report

Lindsay announced that the changes to the annual report that were submitted have been changed. The report is nearly complete, with the budget being the final section to be finalized.

Watershed Management Plan Update

Lindsay discussed the plans for updates to the Watershed Management Plan. Walt has plans to update the plan and will distribute these changes in the near future.

Announcements

The next meeting will be June 1, 2011