

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
May 25, 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
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Kelly Williquette, City of Airway Heights
Wayne Parks, City of Airway Heights
Meghan Lunney, Avista
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Dick Price, Stevens PUD
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors/Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association
Ben Brattebo, Spokane County

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.
The group approved minutes from the April 20, 2011 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEMBER UPDATES

Dick Price reported to the group that the topic of changing relinquishment provisions in the water code, one that Stevens PUD advocated for addressing during the development of WRIA 54 DIP, is getting a lot of attention in the legislature and has been included in many proposed bills considered this legislative session.

Rusty Post updated the group on the 2011-13 operating budget, and the impacts to watershed planning funding. It appears that there will be a cut to the watershed planning budget of approximately 6 million dollars.

Meghan Lunney updated the group on Avista's water quality monitoring activities in Lake Spokane. Avista assisted Ecology with monitoring this year. There were six locations in the reservoir that were sampled between May and October. If Ecology does not have funding for continued sampling Avista plans to continue monitoring through at least 2016. Avista is also evaluating measures to enhance dissolved oxygen in the tail race of Long Lake HED and planning to use a physical model to evaluate total dissolved gas.

PHASE IV GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

Chamokane Watershed Council By-Laws

Charlie Kessler reported that the by-laws are completed and they plan to vote to approve them at their June meeting.

Bradford Storage Project

Charlie Kessler reported that they have dug some test holes at the site, and Cunningham Engineering will be completing the design shortly. The Bradfords are considering a constructed wetland in conjunction with the water storage pond to add some wildlife benefits to the project. The project is on schedule and will be completed on time.

West Plains Hydrogeologic Database

Mike Hermanson presented draft deliverables for the project, including cross sections and maps of the thickness of each stratigraphic unit. The project deliverables will also include data products including a Rockworks database; GIS layers of wells, geologic units, and aquifer potentiometric surfaces; and Excel spreadsheets with the data that was imported into the Rockworks database.

Spokane River Forum Conference Support

The Spokane River Forum Conference was held on May 23rd and 24th. WRIA 54 contributed \$3000 to support the forum.

PRESENTATION - DEEP & COULEE CREEK GROUND AND SURFACE WATER PHOSPHORUS DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

Ben Brattebo presented ground and surface water sampling in Deep and Coulee Creek basins that was conducted as part of the ongoing Regional Non-Point Source Study. The goal of the sampling was to sample for total phosphorus and soluble reactive phosphorus from surface water and shallow ground water and then in conjunction with flow estimates estimate the phosphorus loading from the Deep and Coulee creek watersheds to the Spokane River.

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT IDEAS & PRIORITIES

The group discussed how funding for the next biennium, if provided, would be utilized. Rob Lindsay said that the combination of Spokane County providing administrative support and Rusty Post facilitating meetings has been successful and advocates keeping that arrangement for the next year. Mike Hermanson said that the County has estimated a cost of \$10,000 to administer and support the watershed implementation team. Bart Haggin suggested that the group meet quarterly. Rob Lindsay suggested that quarterly may be too infrequent and every other month should be considered. Projects including follow on work on the West Plains Hydrogeologic Database project, development of water availability assessment protocols for proposed development, and an education program in the Chamokane basin and the Suncrest area were discussed. The group determined that we need the amount of the funding allocation from Ecology before we can discuss specific project proposals.

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on June 29, 2011 from 9-12 at the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURN

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