

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
June 29, 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
Casey Pharr, Spokane Tribe
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Dick Price, Stevens PUD
Bill Shelton, Fairchild Airforce Base
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Lance Peterson, City of Airway Heights
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors/Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association
Linda McCollum, Eastern Washington University

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rob Lindsay opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved minutes from the May 25, 2011 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEMBER UPDATES

Charlie Kessler provided an update on the Stevens County Conservation District's Water Quality Grant for stream restoration in Chamokane Creek. They completed some projects on the Bradford's property such as fencing, and are anticipating more projects in the second year of the project.

Rob Lindsay notified the group that the comment period for the discharge permit for the County's new water reclamation facility is open. Dick Price added that Bruce Rawls and Ben Brattebo came to a Stevens PUD board meeting to discuss the relationship of the dissolved oxygen TMDL and sewerage the Suncrest area.

Bill Rickard reported on the City of Spokane's water conservation program. To date in 2011 they have distributed \$21,200 for a little over 200 high efficiency toilets. They have also distributed \$36,675 in rebates for 149 smart controllers for residential irrigation systems. The rebates range from \$50 to \$350 depending on the complexity of the irrigation system.

2011/12 MEETING FREQUENCY

The group discussed the meeting frequency for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012). The group discussed several options: monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, and a varying frequency depending on activities of the group. There was interest in utilizing a varying frequency schedule. Several options were discussed such as monthly meetings except July, August, September, and December. Rob said that the group may want to consider that approach but remain flexible depending on other processes that impact the group such as state budgeting.

PHASE IV GRANT PROJECT REPORTS

Chamokane Watershed Council By-Laws

Charlie Kessler reported that the Chamokane By-Laws were completed and signed by the participants. The group has 12 founding members.

Bradford Storage Project

Charlie Kessler reported the Bradford Water Storage Project Feasibility Report by Cunningham Engineering was complete. The project is a detention pond of 10 acres and a constructed wetland of 14 acres that would store about 72 acre feet of water. The project would have a regulated release from the bottom of the wetland of 0.3 cfs for up to 4 months. Since the summer low flow of Chamokane Creek in the vicinity of the project is about 0.2 cfs the project would be a significant increase in flow. The engineer's estimate for the project is about 3 million with the bulk of the cost in excavation.

West Plains Hydrogeologic Database

Mike Hermanson presented the West Plains Hydrogeologic Database project including the project background, methodology, products and future steps. The project report and data is online at the WRIA 54 website.

2011-2013 FUNDING AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Rusty Post reported that Ecology is still working through details on the budget, including how to allocate the reduced watershed planning funding. The Eastern Region water management team is planning to recommend that WRIA 54, WRIA 55/57, and WRIA 56 receive base grant funding. Funding of supplemental project has not been determined. The group decided that the best way to approach allocation of WRIA 54 Phase IV grant funds was to have interested parties submit a project proposal to Spokane County by July 21, then Spokane County will distribute the proposals for ranking. A discussion and decision will be made at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on August 4, 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.