

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
August 4, 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
Brian Crossley, 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
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Linda McCollum, Eastern Washington University
Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County Commissioner
Michael Hamilton, Retired Geologist
Wayne Parks, City of Airway Heights

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.
The group approved minutes from the June 29, 2011 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/MEMBER UPDATES

Rob Lindsay informed the group that the Washington Supreme Court just ruled on a case involving Kittitas County that had a significant component about water resources.

Dick Price informed the group that Ecology is taking comments on “statutory barriers to efficient water rights processing and effective water management”.

Charlie Kessler told the group that he met with Brian Crossley & Andy Moss from the Spokane Tribe and Tim Vore from Avista to look at some bank stabilization projects on Chamokane Creek, the Bradford storage project, and some fencing and cattle crossing projects. Charlie also met with Wes McCart regarding some planting projects on his property on Chamokane Creek. Between Avista, the Tribe, and the Stevens CD Ecology grant these projects will be pursued. The Chamokane Watershed Council will meet again in September.

Bill Rickard told the group that the City of Spokane had a budget of \$100,000 for their irrigation smart controller rebate program. They have spent that entire budget plus some additional funds to honor some agreements in place prior to the end of the program. There was a wide variety of controllers and dollar amounts that comprised the program. The City still has funds for high efficiency toilet rebates.

Rob Lindsay informed the group that Ecology is sponsoring a meeting regarding the draft permit for the Spokane County Water Reclamation Facility.

PHASE IV PROJECT PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Rusty Post discussed funding for Watershed Planning grants. Ecology is currently working internally to determine how much funding is available. The Eastern Regional Water Management team recommended that the Spokane watersheds receive their full allocation for base grants.

Mike Hermanson indicated that Spokane County requests \$10,000 to administer and manage the WRIA 54 grant and group meetings. At this point Spokane County submitted a request for preauthorization to spend \$16,500 of the \$100,000 grant while the grant agreement is being developed.

Mike Hermanson described the process for allocating the grant funds. Seven proposals were submitted totaling \$146,000. Project descriptions were distributed via email to all group members. The group members then provided a numerical ranking of the projects. A project that was ranked 1 received 7 points, a 2 received 6 points, etc. The points were totaled for each project. Fourteen project rankings were received representing most active group members. The rankings will serve as the basis for allocating the grant funds.

Charlie Kessler discussed some changes to the Lake Spokane Water Quality Project. The original proposal included Forward Looking Infrared data collection and analysis, but a technology that utilizes Land Sat images to determine total phosphorus, chlorophyll a and, cyano bacteria concentrations is proposed as a substitution. Avista has indicated that they would fund the Land Sat data collection and analysis. Some other proposed project changes were discussed and the final proposed project budget was \$34,625. Charlie Kessler also said the Stevens County Education project original budget of \$20,000 can be reduced to \$15,000.

The group discussed project objectives and budget including how a project could be scaled back to allow more projects to be completed with the available funds.

PHASE IV PROJECT RANKING

The following table presents the ranking and proposed budgets derived from the projects and rankings that were submitted prior to the meeting and presented at the meeting:

Project Name	Ranking	Total Points	Proposed Budget
Water Availability Standard Development	1	61	\$ 17,000
Lake Spokane Water Quality Project	2	59	\$ 27,300
West Plains Ground Water Elevation Monitoring	2	59	\$ 48,425
Bradford Storage Project Permitting	3	57	\$ 5,000
Selective Contouring of the CRBG West Plains Aquifer	4	54	\$ 16,487
Stevens County Education Project	4	54	\$ 15,000
Deep & Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration	5	48	\$ 12,120
Spokane County - Grant Administration			\$ 10,000
TOTAL			\$ 151,332

The group discussed the projects that tied for #2 and decided that the Lake Spokane Water Quality Project is 2a

and the West Plains Ground Water Elevation and Monitoring is 2b. The group also determined that the Bradford Storage Project could be removed from consideration and that the Selective Contouring of the CRBG West Plains Aquifer would be funded in front of the Stevens County Education Project. Mike Hermanson told the group that the Water Availability Standard Development Project is contingent on WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 providing funds and if they decide not to fund the project it would not be undertaken and other projects could receive funding. The following table shows the agreed upon project ranking, budgets, and proposed funding from the WRIA 54 base grant.

Project Name	Ranking	Total Points	Proposed Budget
Water Availability Standard Development	1	61	\$ 17,000
Lake Spokane Water Quality Project	2a	59	\$ 27,300
West Plains Ground Water Elevation Monitoring	2b	59	\$ 34,625
Bradford Storage Project Permitting	3	57	\$ 0
Selective Contouring of the CRBG West Plains Aquifer	3a	54	\$ 11,075
Stevens County Education Project	3b	54	\$ 0
Deep & Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration	5	48	\$ 0
Spokane County - Grant Administration			\$ 10,000
TOTAL			\$ 100,000

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on September 28, 2011 from 10-12 at the Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda McCollum informed the group that the Ice Age Floods Institute will be holding a field trip on October 8.

ADJOURN

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