

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

***Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT)
Meeting***

**Wednesday August 10, 2011
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Spokane Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA**

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>	Rick Noll, <i>SCCD</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Valley Resident</i>	Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCCD</i>
Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>

Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay Chutas and the committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with slight wording changes to the Eloika Lake Bioengineering description.

Conservation:

- Rob Lindsay updated the group on Spokane County's rebate programs. The applications have slowed down as the summer has progressed. Spokane County is looking for ways to incorporate multi-family complexes.
- The County Water Reclamation Facility is under construction. The Water Resource Department is creating a Water Resource Education Center, which is currently in the design stages.
- Lloyd Brewer updated the group about the city's \$100K sprinkler upgrade program. The majority of the rebates went to PUD applicants and the rebates were fulfilled very quickly in the process. The City has had success in installing low flow toilets in some of the local elementary schools and in upgrades to city hall's toilet systems.

West Branch Update

- Howard Rowley informed the group that the West Branch Group did not meet in July. Their next meeting will be October 24 at the Riverside Fire Station. The Eloika Lake second year herbicide application has been completed and was very successful. The treatment targeted milfoil, curly leaf pond weed and yellow flag iris.

Gaging:

- Rob Lindsay informed the group that Spokane County will not renew its funding for the Liberty Bridge, Barker Road, and Inland Empire Well USGS Gaging stations. Avista has been notified of the change in funding.

Funding Status Update

Rusty Post informed the group that Ecology has not finalized their funding allocation for the Watershed Planning groups yet. He said it is likely that WRIA 55/57 will receive its full base grant

funding for the year, which the WIT can use for administrative costs, as well as implementation projects. The amount of money that will be allocated for implementation projects statewide is uncertain at this point.

Annual Report

Rob presented the latest draft of the Annual Report. He incorporated all of the comments from the WIT. The latest draft will be sent to the group for final comments.

Phase IV Priority Project Ranking

WIT members were asked to bring their project proposals for FY 12 to the meeting. The following proposals were brought forward and priority ranked by the WIT in the order they are presented:

- Contract Management/Administration
- Meeting Facilitation (contract with SCD)
- Development of Subdivision Water Availability and Sustainability Investigation Standards
- Little Spokane Hydrogeologic Database
- Little Spokane Groundwater Elevation and stream Flow Monitoring
- Spokane County Water Demand Model-Consumptive Use and Return Flows
- Bi-State Meeting Support for Spokane River Forum

Rob presented a letter that was sent in by Dale Gill discussing his personal opinion about some issues with watershed planning.

Part II: WRIA 56 Issues 3:10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves.

Updates

- No new status update for AWEP.
- Livestock: The SCD continues to work on the Centennial 319 Grant for Direct Seed and Livestock Improvements. The SCD will hold a livestock workshop in November for residents in the watershed. Horses for Clean Water will lead the workshop. The summer livestock inventory will commence in August. The grant is also available for livestock improvement projects.
- Groundwater Monitoring: The Groundwater Monitoring Project Report is final and the SCD is doing periodic monitoring.
- Irrigation Efficiency: The irrigation efficiency project at Freeman High School is completed. Lindsay passed out a flyer highlighting the accomplishments of the project. The SCD and Ewing Irrigation plan on holding a second irrigation efficiency class in the Fall/Winter 2011.
- Murdoch Project: The Hangman Creek streambank stabilization project at the Murdoch site down stream of the Rock Creek confluence will commence in August. The project aims to restore and stabilize 1500 ft of bank. The project aims to be completed by the end of September.

Funding Status

- Rusty Post informed the group that Ecology has not finalized their funding allocation for the Watershed Planning groups yet. He said it is likely that WRIA 56 will receive its full base grant funding for the year, which the WIT can use for administrative costs, as well as implementation projects. The amount of money that will be allocated for implementation projects statewide is uncertain at this point.
- Walt informed the group that the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has committed to funding the USGS Stateline Gage at Tekoa for the 2012 Water Year.

Watershed Management Plan Update

Walt presented the group with the latest Watershed Management Plan Update. He asked for comments about content from the WIT to be emailed to him directly.

Phase IV Priority Project Ranking

The following projects were presented for prioritization. The group did not finalize its priority rankings for the projects as they did not all have complete descriptions and preliminary budgets. Walt will finalize those details before the next meeting.

- Development of Subdivision Water Availability and Sustainability Investigation Standards
- Groundwater Monitoring Well Network Expansion
- Leak Detection Program
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Spokane County Water Demand Model Consumptive Use and Return Flows
- Administration and Facilitation

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.