

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

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

**Wednesday October 4, 2011
9:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Spokane Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA**

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCCD</i>	Dale Gill, <i>LSR Resident</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCCD</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCCD</i>	

Part I: WRIA 55/57 Issues 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

West Branch Update

- Howard Rowley and Greg Sweeney informed the group of the upcoming quarterly West Branch meeting, October 24th at the Riverside Fire Station, 6-8 pm. The meeting has two main agenda items: The Pend Oreille Invasive Species Council and the effects of beaver dams on lake levels. The 5th annual Eloika Lake Poker Paddle was September 17 and was a huge success.

Little Spokane Water Conservation

Reanette Boese gave an update on the Little Spokane Water Conservation Program.

Rebates: rebates have been issued for toilets and washing machines, for a total of \$46,759 to date.

Signs: Reanette brought draft informational signs to the meeting. She is still looking for input as to their content. The signs will be made out of aluminum and installed on wooden posts at Spokane County Parks and conservation areas in the Little Spokane Watershed. Approximately 10 total signs will be made for the project. Thanks to Dale Gill for photos of springs for the signs.

Funding Status: Implementation Projects and Base Grant Prioritization

The Spokane County Project to study on the Unconsolidated Groundwater Systems of the Little Spokane River Basin was funded for implementation money. The base grant was prioritized according to the priority set in the previous meeting. The WIT discussed possibilities for funding for meetings beyond the Phase IV years and the importance of reevaluating our approach as a group to the planning process. The idea of subgroups for focusing on different aspects of planning was discussed and received with some enthusiasm. Further discussion will be necessary before a decision will be made.

Part II: Joint WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 Issues 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with small changes

Funding Status

Walt Edelen and Rick Noll solicited the group for input about prioritizing the funds that were allocated for WRIA 56 implementation projects. They discussed the importance of a regional approach to groundwater monitoring. Their recommendation/proposal was to use some of the base grant funds for this purpose, as well as shifting all of the funds approved for the irrigation efficiency project (\$35,000) into the groundwater monitoring grant. Utilizing the funds allocated to WRIA 56 implementation. They discussed with the group connecting the groundwater studies in WRIA 54 with the studies in WRIA 56. The group agreed that this was an appropriate reallocation of approved funds.

Spokane County Water Resource Education Center

Rob Lindsay discussed the Water Resource Education Center, built in conjunction with the newly constructed Spokane County Water Reclamation Facility on Freya St. The County is now working with the consultant, Renate, to develop content for the Education Facility. The first meeting with stakeholders was held Sep. 14th. The next meeting will be Oct. 12, where Renate will present a schematic design for the center. The objectives are to appeal to a large audience, focusing on 4th and 5th graders. A series of workshops to get content from educators and stakeholders will be taking place this fall, with the facility scheduled to open in May 2012.

Part III: WRIA 56 Issues 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Committee Reports and Updates

- **AWEP:** No updates. We are in between funding cycles at this time.
- **Livestock Project:** The SCD has completed its summer livestock inventory. They will be working on completing the inventory assessment this fall.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SCD continues to monitor the groundwater in the monitoring wells in the Hangman Watershed.
- **Murdoch Project:** The streambank stabilization project at the Murdoch property near the confluence of Rock Creek at Hangman Creek on Valley Chapel Road is underway. The SCD and its contractors have realigned the channel and reconfigured the bank to a more stable design. They installed stabilizing fabric and will be planting riparian plants and grasses to aid in stabilization of the bank.

Funding Status: Implementation Projects and Base Grant Prioritization

WRIA 56 was awarded \$35,000 for the Irrigation Efficiency project and \$55,000 for the Groundwater Monitoring project from Implementation dollars. In light of this, and the discussion from the Joint WRIA meeting about the importance of connecting groundwater monitoring projects between WRIA 54 and WRIA 56 while there is still money, the group decided on the following projects for funding this year:

Total Budget	Base Grant	Extra Funds
Facilitation and Administration	\$10,000	
Water Availability and Sustainability Standards	\$17,000	
Groundwater Program	\$23,000	\$90,000
Total Budget	\$50,000	\$90,000

The Irrigation Efficiency program was eliminated and the money allocated for it will now be used for the Groundwater Program.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.