

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

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

**Wednesday November 2, 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>	Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</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>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake Association</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCCD</i>	Brian St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water</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.

Committee Reports and Updates:

Little Spokane Water Conservation

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

Rebates: 475 rebates have been issued for toilets and washing machines, for a total of \$47,059.09. 307 of the rebates were for clothes washers, and 168 were for toilets. The majority of the rebate applicants were on private wells, serviced by Whitworth Water District, SCWD 3, and the City of Deer Park.

Signs: Reanette brought draft informational signs to the meeting. The group took some time to give feedback about the content on each sign. 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 12 total signs will be made for the project. Thanks to Dale Gill for photos of springs for the signs.

West Branch Update

- The West Branch Committee met on October 24. The LSR TMDL was distributed for public comment and is available to those who are interested. Jon Jones will hold a meeting November 15 at 6 pm at the Riverside Fire station for comments. Sharon Sorby presented to the group about the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force formed to combat invasive species in the West Branch and Pend Oreille River. Amanda Parrish and Todd McLaughlin presented information about beavers in the West Branch. The next meeting will be April 23rd. The Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Management Area group's next meeting will be April 12.
- Diamond Lake residents have expressed concern over high water levels at the lake during the traditionally low water level time of the year. They have expressed interest in doing survey work.

Spokane County Water Resource Education Center

Rob Lindsay gave an update about the Water Resource Education Center development. The committee met for the second time and the consultant, Renate, provided examples of exhibits for content and design. The planned opening date for the center is May 1, 2012.

Bi-State Meetings

The committee is moving forward to have a bi-state meeting in early February in Coeur d'Alene.

Budget Changes/Scope of Work Adjustments

Rob Lindsay informed the group of some small budget adjustments for the base grant funding due to a higher need in administration and facilitation.

The group started the discussion about long term funding mechanisms and structure for watershed planning for base grant funding and implementation activities. The discussion will continue in the following months.

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

McKenzie Wetland Restoration Project

Ben Brattebo gave a presentation on the McKenzie Wetland Restoration Project. The project is located at the north end of Newman Lake, in a 106 acre uniform wetland area. The project is in the enhancement design phase and is ready to move forward once a funding source becomes available. As of May 2011 the enhancement design includes the following: a 90% design drawings on 14 sheets with agency comments, a cost estimate of \$1.7 million for the entire project, a funding opportunity memo, an initial cultural resource survey which highlighted areas of sensitivity, and additional field data collected by monitoring groundwater levels. The 90 %design developed 3 open water cells with planting plans to increase water storage, improve water quality, and increase habitat diversity.

Spokane Conservation District Projects

Walt Edelen gave a presentation about projects that the SCD has recently completed. He highlighted the following projects: the Murdoch project, a 1600 foot stream bank stabilization project on Hangman Creek; the Freeman High School Irrigation efficiency project, which saves over 55,000 gallons of water per week of irrigation; the Small Town Leak Detection program, which installed water meters and identified leaks in municipal water systems; the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPP) stream crossing replacement program, where the SCD replaced 4 culverts with appropriately sized bridges and one arch culvert to open up 2.6 miles of fish habitat on Deadman Creek; and the Wethy Creek Off-Creek Livestock Watering project, where the SCD installed a new off-creek watering system for the Simonson Dairy in Deer Park to improve dairy operations and prevent water quality pollution in Wethy Creek.

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:** The NRCS expects to announce the application window for the 2012 AWEP projects to be announced shortly. It is expected the available funding will be similar to 2011, near \$230,000 available for landowners in the Hangman Watershed.
- **Livestock Projects:** The SCD will be hosting a livestock workshop November 5 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Fairfield. It will be organized by the Horses for Clean Water Organization, with funding from small farm coordination and the SCD.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** The SCD continues to monitor the groundwater in the monitoring wells in the Hangman Watershed.

Budget Changes/Scope of Work Adjustments

Walt reiterated the budget for WRIA 56 as discussed at the last meeting. The following is the breakdown of the budget for both base grant and implementation activities.

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 group started the discussion about long term funding mechanisms and structure for watershed planning for base grant funding and implementation activities. The discussion will continue in the following months.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.