

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

Joint Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting

Wednesday December 7, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Spokane Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCD</i>	Marcia Davis, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCD</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake Association</i>	Gary Ostheller, <i>Fairfield Grange</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Sandra Pinel, <i>University of Idaho</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</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:

West Branch Update

The Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Management Area group's next meeting will be April 12. The next West Branch Meeting will be April 23.

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, 2011.

Little Spokane Water Conservation

Signs: Rob Lindsay gave an update on the status of the educational signs. The signs have been completed and are being delivered to Spokane County Parks and State Parks to be installed by the end of December.

LSR USGS Groundwater Study

Spokane County's LSR groundwater study is moving forward. The USGS is gathering background information on the project as well as deciding locations for new monitoring wells. Whitworth Water District has secured 7 wells for additional monitoring.

Bi-State Meetings

The committee is moving forward to have an informational bi-state meeting February 9 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The meeting will be informational and will feature speakers from the Southern Nevada Water Authority, WA Dept of Ecology, and ID Water Resources. The first meeting topic will focus on Bi-State opportunities for regional collaboration.

Attendance will be encouraged from the business community and all local, state and federal representatives.

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 a date change.

Hazel's Creek Presentation

Marcia Davis from the City of Spokane gave a presentation about the stormwater facility at Hazel's creek on the South Hill in Spokane. A study was conducted with Geoengineers to understand the bedrock geology and model groundwater flow out of the drainage. The study found a paleochannel in the bedrock which explains the some of the flow patterns observed with the surface water to groundwater interaction at Hazel's Creek. The stormwater facility was designed to accept up to 5 cfs, provide an educational facility to observe and learn about wetland environments, and provide the community with a beautiful green space. Future plans involve developing the facility into a more park-like setting with informational signs and wildlife habitat.

Organizational Structure and Future Funding

Rusty started the discussion about future structure and funding by presenting priorities discussed by the planning groups last spring and identifying priorities that would be better represented by a diverse group of agencies and private industry. Rusty suggested that the group take a regional approach to funding opportunities by structuring and coordinating with a wider audience for finding funding opportunities and to better be able to address regional issues. We discussed the formation of special purpose districts such as a new aquifer protection district, utilization of the Spokane Conservation District, and formation of other entities in Spokane County to secure long term funding. Members of the WIT also discussed individual contributions for short term funding to keep meetings going for the low cost facilitation and administration of the planning units. No final decisions were made and this topic will require further discussion and consideration before a plan can be prepared.

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 smaller than 2011, but will still have money available for landowners will to implement improvements in the Hangman Watershed.

Livestock Projects

Lindsay explained the SCD's livestock inventory project and discussed the findings of highest livestock improvement potential in the Hangman Watershed. The SCD will be hosted a livestock workshop November 5 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Fairfield. It was organized by the Horses for Clean Water Organization, with funding from small farm

coordination and the SCD. The SCD is in the process of developing a program called the "Livestock and Land Program" to make improvements to livestock operations and improve water quality indirectly.

Groundwater Monitoring

The SCD continues to monitor the groundwater in the monitoring wells in the Hangman Watershed. Northwest Land and Water was selected to do the next phase of the project. The project will be stated once the grant agreement with Ecology is signed.

Bi-State Water Quality Meeting

Walt informed the group he will be getting the Bi-State quarterly meetings started again soon. The group will focus on water quality issues, the TMDL and implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.