

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

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

**Wednesday February 8, 2012  
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>	Ty Wick, <i>Hangman Hills Water District</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>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Dale Gill, <i>LSR Resident</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>
Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>
Bryan St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water Co.</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Resident</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. The Baker family of Horseshoe Lake recently worked with Inland Northwest Land Trust to place additional land into conservation futures near the Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area. The Regional Lakes Conference was held on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at the Spokane Community College and was a forum for lake associations and lake residents to discuss a variety of issues.

**Lake Roosevelt Forum**

Howard Rowley informed the group of the upcoming Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference on April 16/17 at the Davenport Hotel.

**Water Availability and Sustainability Standards**

Rob Lindsay gave an update about the Water Availability and Sustainability Standards program. The committee has selected Susan Gulick from Sound Resolutions to be the consultant for the program and to facilitate the meetings. The goal of the program is to develop technically sound and legally defensible recommendations for demonstrating water availability outside of the water service areas. Rob invited anyone from watershed planning to be involved in the advisory committee. They plan on having at least one meeting per month.

**LSR USGS Groundwater Study**

Spokane County's LSR groundwater study is moving forward. The USGS has been monitoring the groundwater wells and developing fence diagrams to represent the

subsurface geology found in and between those wells. They will be using the database of permanent exempt wells and will continue monthly measurements and conduct a few synoptic measurements for the project. The legislature has allocated money to go through 2013 for the program.

### **H2O Breakfast**

An informational bi-state meeting will be held February 9 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. The meeting will feature Patricia Mulroy from the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Ted Sturdevant from the WA Dept of Ecology, and Gary Spackman of ID Water Resources. The first meeting topic will focus on Bi-State opportunities for regional collaboration. Attendance is encouraged from the business community and all local, state and federal representatives.

### **LSR TMDL Update**

Rick Noll announced that Ecology has finished the LSR TMDL and submitted it to the EPA. They will be hosting review sessions for the document on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Fire station and on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Camden Grange.

### **Implementation MOA**

The current implementation MOA is set to expire. Spokane County will work with Rusty to update it. It was suggested that the new MOA include all the WRIA's in the County in order to set up a more regional approach to watershed planning. Rob and Rusty will work on drafting the MOA.

### **Update to CARA Ordinance**

The Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA) Ordinance will be up for discussion within Spokane County. A consultant will be hired to review the scientific basis for the CARA ordinance and offer alternatives to the ordinance. The CARA is currently written as a water quality ordinance. The update hopes to address water quantity as well and have a better understanding of the variation in hydrogeologic settings in the county.

## **Part II: Joint WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 Issues 10:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.**

Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and the committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary was approved with formatting changes and to include Susan McGeorge who was in attendance.

### **National Weather Service Presentation**

Katherine Rowden from the National Weather Service (NWS) gave a presentation about what the NWS has to offer people interested in water resources. Katherine discussed the Regional River Forecasting model that looks at historical river data and uses the weather forecast to predict river discharge, peak flow forecasts, and low flow seasonal forecasts. She also asked for feedback regarding information the water resource community would like to see the NWS provide. Water suppliers suggested prediction information about low water years to better enact conservation measures with their customers.

### **Digit!**

Walt informed the group about the recently installed Smithsonian Dig It! exhibit at the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture. The award winning exhibit is designed for children and adults and focuses on soil science.

### **Ruckleshaus Legislation**

Walt and Rob discussed the Ruckleshaus Legislation that Spokane County has decided to opt into. It is a voluntary stewardship program. Counties had to opt in by January 22, 2012. The idea of the program is to work with agricultural lands and keep them viable, while protecting critical areas. The legislation provides a couple of years to develop the

Critical Areas Ordinance and develop additional processes to develop other ordinances. Funding for the program comes from the Washington Conservation Commission (WCC). As of today, there is no funding available. The timeline for the program begins when funding becomes available. Questions about the program should be directed to Ron Shultz with the WCC.

#### **Future Funding for WRIA meetings**

The group discussed the status of funding for watershed planning and future opportunities. The group discussed an idea of a regional watershed implementation group, formed to be a source to discuss regional watershed issues and implement them. Rob and Rusty will work together to draft a description of this type of group. Estimated costs for base funding for administrative work to run the joint WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 meetings were discussed. The group volunteered to come prepared to the next meeting with budgets to discuss what they want out of the next year of meetings. Funding may come from donated services by various participants.

### **Part III: WRIA 56 Issues 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.**

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

#### **Committee Reports and Updates**

##### **AWEP**

The NRCS has announced the application window for the 2012 AWEP projects. \$419,000 has been allocated to Hangman Watershed (including Idaho) projects this year, and the SCD is accepting applications for the program. Projects involving tillage, fencing, stream stabilization projects and similar projects will be prioritized for funding.

##### **Livestock Projects**

Walt gave a presentation about the SCD's livestock inventory project and discussed the findings of highest livestock water quality improvement potential in the Hangman Watershed. 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 started once the grant agreement with Ecology is signed.

##### **Small Town Council Update**

The SCD will be attending small town council meetings during the month of February. They will be discussing available programs and recent projects in the watershed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.