

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

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

**Wednesday April 4, 2012  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 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>
Bill Abrahamse, <i>Trout Unlimited</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>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>	Elaine Snouwaert, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>
Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Resident</i>
Jase Brooks, <i>Americorps/University of Idaho</i>	

**Part I: WRIA 56 Issues 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

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

**Committee Reports and Updates**

**AWEP**

The application window for the final round of AWEP funding has closed. \$419,000 is available to Hangman Creek Watershed (including Idaho) projects this year. 35 applications were submitted (29 in Washington, 9 in Idaho) for consideration and are being ranked at this time.

**Livestock and Land Program**

The SCD has started a new program called the Livestock and Land Program. The focus of the program is to improve livestock operations and the environment through a variety of management practices. The SCD hosted a Livestock and Land workshop at the Camden Grange on March 10 and the Fairfield Community Center on March 11. The workshop focused on pasture management, chore efficiency, animal health, mud and manure management, and other topics that will improve livestock facilities and reduce water quality impacts.

**Bi-State Water Quality Meetings**

Walt announced the Bi-State group is planning on meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 at the SCD. The group aims to discuss and coordinate projects in the Hangman Watershed in both Idaho and Washington.

**Willow Warrior Weekend**

The SCD is partnering with the Lands Council and Trout Unlimited to host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Willow Warrior Weekend. They will plant willow whips along sections of Hangman Creek. The event is scheduled for April 13 and 14.

### **Marshall Creek Water Transfer Proposal**

A surface water rights transfer has been approved by Ecology and the Water Conservancy Board in the Marshall Creek Watershed. Rights have been transferred from a flood irrigation operation to a gravel pit operation. Walt expressed interest in receiving updates about any more transfers from the Water Conservancy Board and hoped the WIT would be able to make comments about any future transfers.

### **Riparian Plantings**

The Lands Council has 5000 willow whips to be used in plantings along reaches in Hangman Creek in May. Inland Northwest Land Trust has been planting in riparian areas on Tuesday's and Thursdays through March and April to restore riparian buffers in their conservation areas.

### **Stream Bank Engineers Design**

The SCD is working with landowners with property on a reach (at river mile 17) of Hangman Creek downstream of the California Creek confluence. The SCD has hired Oasis Consulting to create a reach level design.

### **Annual Report**

Walt will be sending out an update to the Annual Report before the May WRIA 56 meeting.

### **Local Non-Profit Partnership Formed**

Inland Northwest Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, and The Lands Council have started meeting to discuss their shared interest in the Hangman Creek TMDL issues. They are working with the SCC Water Resource program to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve their goals. Tuesday April 10 they will be going to Sheep Creek on the CDA reservation to look at landowner's properties and observe improvements to the creek.

## **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 no changes.

### **Water Availability and Sustainability Meeting**

A meeting was held March 29. The group discussed a variety of topics including instream flows, water availability standards, and creating a more complete form for pump testing for drillers, among other things. The next two meetings will be held at the Regional Health District on April 12 at 2 pm and April 26 at 10 am. The presentations and information from the meetings can be found on Spokane County Utilities Water Resource web page.

### **Budget**

The Washington State Legislature is still in session at this time. Funding for watershed planning may still be available for base grant activities, but it is unclear at this time if that remains. The CDA Tribe may be able to assist in funding to continue watershed planning efforts. Ty suggested having a contingency plan in case legislative funding does not materialize. The group discussed the option of volunteer time to attend meetings even if funding is gone. Spokane County would not be able to do things like administration and writing annual reports, but the group could easily still meet to discuss watershed

happenings. Whitworth Water District's Board is supportive of adding money to the funding of administrative tasks and small implementation activities, but wants to see other groups commit funding as well before they commit.

#### **WRIA 54 Joint Meeting Incorporation Brainstorming**

The group discussed the best way to include WRIA 54 issues into the joint meetings to make the joint meetings more regional in discussion. The group decided the best way was to make sure that representatives who are regularly attending WRIA 54 WIT meetings attend joint meetings and report on significant regional issues.

### **Part III: WRIA 55/57 Issues 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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

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

##### **West Branch Update**

1. A WB-LSR Watershed Committee meeting will be held Mon. April 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Riverside Fire Station #46. The group will continue their bi-annual meetings through 2012.
2. Pend Oreille Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative Management Area meeting has been changed to 9:00 a.m. April 13 @ PO PUD, Newport.
4. The Eloika Lake Association is looking for funding and group participation to implement the recommendations found in the hydrology report at the outlet of Eloika Lake. They are looking to increase the pool level by approximately 2 feet above the normal low summer pool level.

##### **Bi-State Meetings**

Two meetings have been held at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District office to work on forming a Bi-State group to discuss water issues. Tonilee Hanson from SAJB has been facilitating. The group is aiming to work together to develop strategies to jointly use the aquifer. They are trying to be proactive and develop relationships early before times of water shortage. They are looking at regional effects and not worrying about the state line as a divider to minimize adverse impacts to the aquifer. The early goals are to develop a mission statement and involve as many purveyors and business owners in the process as possible to adequately address the issues of water availability across state lines.

##### **Annual Report**

Rob presented the start of a draft of the 2011 Annual Report. The group worked together to make changes and add implementation activities.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.