

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
May 23, 2012

Location: Airway Heights Advanced Water Reclamation Facility, Airway Heights, WA.

Planning Unit members and guests in attendance / recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Dept.
Dick Price, Stevens County PUD #1
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Wes McCart, Stevens County Farm Bureau/Landowner/Stevens County Water Conservancy Board
Meghan Lunney, Avista
Craig Volosing, Palisades Neighborhood/Landowner
Mike Peterson, Lands Council
Bill Abrahamse, Trout Unlimited

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.
The group approved minutes from the March 28, 2012 meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Lake Spokane Water Quality Project

Charlie Kessler provided an update on the Lake Spokane Water Quality Project. They are currently sampling at 20 sites along the lake, 16 on the Stevens County side and 4 on the Spokane County side. Flows in the Spokane River/Lake Spokane are high which has impacted the sampling schedule. Charlie has had the opportunity to discuss the project with homeowners on the lake during sampling events. They also had a septic loan program meeting.

Stevens County Education Project

They have been working with a class from Lakeside High School on a weekly basis. Various speakers have been to the class to present about Lake Spokane water quality issues. Presentations have been made to the Lake Spokane Association and press releases have been sent to local papers and newsletters.

Deep and Coulee Creek Restoration Project

Mike Peterson provided a project update. 2500 plants have been planted. They have tried some new techniques and are hopeful they are successful. They have done considerable outreach as part of the project.

Water Availability and Sustainability Project

Mike Hermanson provided a project update. There have been four meetings to date. The meetings have been well attended. The discussion to this point has been focused on water availability demonstration requirements

for building permits. Improvements to this process have been identified. At the last meeting the discussion of water availability and land division was initiated.

West Plains Groundwater Elevation and Monitoring

A second synoptic measurement was conducted this spring. Water levels in over 100 wells were measured over a 1 week time period. The data is now being reviewed. Monthly monitoring and continuous monitoring is ongoing.

Groundwater Age Dating Project

8 samples were collected and results are expected in the next month.

FY13 PROJECT DISCUSSION

Rusty Post provided an update on Watershed Planning funding. There were several changes and developments to report

- There are some fiscal year 12 funds that will not be spent.
- Due to changes in the funding sources for Watershed Planning some funds left from fiscal year 12 will be able to be carried into fiscal year 13.
- There are some fiscal year 13 funds that are not allocated.
- Ecology will be evaluating potential additions to existing grants or new projects for these funds.

The group discussed ideas to submit to Ecology for these funds and developed a prioritized list.

1. Continued education efforts at Lake Spokane High School - \$11,200
2. Continue West Plains groundwater elevation monitoring - \$5,000
3. Seepage run on Deep & Coulee Creek - \$7,500
4. Additional planting in Deep & Coulee Creek basins - \$5,000
5. Support for the IWAC (Idaho/Washington Aquifer Collaboration) - \$5,000
6. Support for school transportation to Spokane County Water Resource Center - \$5,000

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on June 27, 2012 from 10-12 at the Spokane County Water Resources Center.

ADJOURN

Rusty Post adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.