

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

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

**Wednesday July 11, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Spokane County Water Resource Center
Spokane, WA**

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCD</i>	Alan Miller, <i>Hayden Lake Irrig. District</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Peter Grunte, <i>Hangman Resident</i>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Katherine Rowden, <i>Natl. Weather Svc.</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Jase Brooks, <i>Americorps/University of Idaho</i>	Dale Gill, <i>LSR Resident</i>
Jim Mathieu, <i>Northwest Land and Water</i>	Henry Allen, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>
Jon Jones, <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Ralph Marra, <i>SW Water Resources</i>
Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>	Doug Rider, <i>SC Water Coservancy Bd</i>
Jim Gozz, <i>Univ Idaho/WSU</i>	Sandra Pinel, <i>Univ Idaho</i>

The meeting was called to order by Rob Lindsay and the committee members introduced themselves. Rob noted that Lindsay Chutas is away indefinitely on maternity leave. The June meeting minutes were approved with no changes. No public comments were offered.

Committee Reports and Updates

West Branch Update

The Lands Council will be installing pond leveling devices in the Moon Creek drainage in the next week or so. Don Hill from the Lake Sacheen Association contacted Spokane County, expressing interest in ongoing WRIA activities, particularly related to beaver issues in the Sacheen Lake area.

IWAC

The monthly Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC) meeting was held on July 10 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. The meeting included a presentation of the pros and cons of different organizational structures (ie., joint powers agreement, MOU based groups via a non profit status, or an informal advisory committee). The meeting also included a discussion with Bob Haynes, former regional director of the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources, as a potential ongoing facilitator to replace Tonilee Hanson who has been facilitator on loan from the SAJB. Bill Rickard noted that the participation has been high and meetings have been well attended. Rob noted that there are updates on the Spokane River Forum website for those who are interested in the process.

Water Availability and Sustainability Workshops

The workshops have been getting attention from the Spokane County Commissioners, primarily due to comments made by workshop members. Rob has attended two briefings with the commissioners to address concerns regarding the scope and purpose of the workshops, the facilitator, and the methods employed by the USGS and County personnel in performing regional hydrogeological assessment projects. Rob noted that Spokane County Commissioner French has expressed interest in being included on the WRIA mailings and that he will be participating in future Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) water-related meetings.

There were \$12K of unspent funds for this project as of the end of FY12, and Spokane County has prepared a proposal to roll those funds forward into FY13 to conduct 3 additional meetings starting in September.

Hangman Creek BiState Water Quality Group

The July 12 meeting at the CDA Tribal Center is cancelled, but will be rescheduled for later in the month of July or sometime in August. Walt will send out an e-mail with the updated meeting time.

Livestock and Land Program

The Spokane Conservation District has completed 11 applications for multiple projects in the Little Spokane and Hangman watersheds, completing 25 projects related to livestock and water quality BMPs. Contact Walt for more information on the various projects.

WRIA 56 Hydrogeologic Study

Rick Noll announced that Northwest Land and Water will make a final presentation about the findings from this study at the August meeting.

Scenario Planning Presentation

Ralph Marra, from the firm Southwest Water Resources, gave a presentation about the process of Scenario Planning. Scenario Planning is a planning and management tool used in many large corporations. A fundamental element of Scenario Planning is that it's a tool to *prepare* organizations for a variety of potential outcomes, and not to *predict* those outcomes. There was discussion following the presentation on the application of such a process to watershed planning.

Extra FY 12 Funds Proposals

Rusty noted that there have been about \$500K of proposals submitted statewide and there is about \$250K available. A regional prioritization was conducted on July 2 by WDOE on the projects that have been submitted by the local watershed groups; those recommendations have been sent on to the WDOE Water Advancement Group (WAG) in Olympia for statewide prioritization. Projects that assist in providing water into streams and provide assistance to WDOE in processing water right applications are receiving the highest priority. Rusty noted there is very high interest on the part of WDOE for the Water Availability and Sustainability workshops...it is seen as a pilot project for other areas of the state. There were a total of 14 projects among the local watersheds; Rusty combined those projects into 6 project "packages" for funding. The packages were grouped by project type and prioritization by the local WRIAs. The next WAG meeting in Olympia will be on July 23. Final decision is expected by the 8th of August. We are still waiting to know exactly how much funding is available, based on year end grant reports due at the end of this month. Rusty complimented the local watershed groups, saying we are viewed highly by the WAG for our ongoing grant management and implementation of quality projects.

FY 13-15 Biennium Proposals

The following projects have been submitted for consideration. Applications are due to WDOE on July 31, 2012.

Garden Springs Creek Restoration – City of Spokane, Parks Dept.
Simulation of groundwater and surface water flow system in the LSR (WRIA 55)
- USGS and Spokane County

It was agreed that additional proposals would likely be forthcoming. Since there will be no additional WRIA meetings before the deadline it was agreed that project proponents will need to submit projects to Spokane County and Spokane Conservation District in time to meet the July 31 deadline.

The Spokane Conservation District expressed interest in developing a proposal for the FY13-15 biennium to perform a Scenario Planning project in the region. Ralph noted that the larger projects with a wider range of interests should expect more modest outcomes. He suggested a pilot project on a more focused issue to start.

Facilitation Plan FY-13

The Conservation District and Spokane County agreed to continue to provide facilitation of future meetings, both joint and individual WRIA meetings, for FY 13. The August meeting will be held August 8 at the Spokane County Conservation District.