

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
July 25, 2012

Location: Spokane County Water Resources Center, Spokane, 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
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
Charlie Peterson, Spokane Conservation District
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council
Michael Hamilton, Independent Geologist working with EWU
Mark Beck, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved the June 27, 2012 meeting summary.

PROJECT/MEMBER UPDATES

Mike Hermanson reported that the final quarterly reports for fiscal year 2012 were submitted, and all of the projects were completed on time and the deliverables received. There were four projects-

1. The Water Availability and Sustainability Work Group – Work may continue on this project in the fall depending on availability of supplemental funding. An interim status report on the progress of the work group was developed. A more detailed report on this project will be presented at the next meeting.
2. Delimiting Geologic Structures and Geologic Maps – This project was completed by EWU. A presentation was given at the June meeting.
3. Lake Spokane Water Quality Project – This project was completed by Stevens County Conservation District and a presentation will be made at today's meeting.
4. Groundwater Age Dating – This project was completed and a report will be given at the next meeting. A presentation on the WRIA 54/56 Hydrogeologic study completed this year, of which the groundwater age dating was a component, will be given at the next WRIA 55/57 & 56 meeting.

Rob Lindsay reported that the WRIA 55/57 and WRIA 56 are no longer eligible for Phase IV funding. The groups will continue to meet. The groups will continue to meet together with the Spokane Conservation District and Spokane County sharing meeting facilitation, agenda development, and preparation of meeting summaries.

PHASE IV PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Charlie Kessler gave a presentation on the Lake Spokane Water Quality Project that was completed with WRIA 54 Phase IV funds. The focus of the project was evaluation of the impact of near shore development on the nutrient loading to the lake. The project included sampling for optical brighteners found in laundry detergent

because it is an indicator of domestic wastewater, and fecal coliform. The project also included purchase of total phosphorus data for the lake derived from satellite imagery from Blue Water Satellite. One challenge of the project was that due to grant funding schedules sampling was limited by the lake drawdown and once the lake elevation did rise, the flows coming into the lake were high. If additional funding is allocated for FY13, sampling will be conducted in the summer and early fall which is more likely to show impacts of near shore development if they are present. The optical brightener data and fecal coliform data were not conclusive, likely due to the high flows entering the lake. The satellite data was from last summer and showed low levels of total phosphorus throughout the lake. There were inconsistencies that made the data questionable. One inconsistency was land was interpreted as water with a high concentration of total phosphorus.

Amanda Parrish presented the Deep and Coulee Creek Restoration Project. This project was funded by a Watershed Planning Implementation project grant separate from the Phase IV grant. The focus of the project was riparian restoration on private property within the Deep and Coulee Creek watersheds. Four project sites were selected comprising 3.5 stream miles and 2515 plants were planted. Some new techniques were used to protect the new plantings, such as the use of an organic repellent called Plantskydd, and the use of 3' x 3' ground cloth around plants. The initial survival rates are approximately 80%.

PROJECT FUNDING DISCUSSION

There are three funding elements that were discussed: 1. Unspent FY12/Unallocated FY13 funding, 2. WRIA 54 Phase IV Funds, and 3. Initial proposals for FY13-15 funding.

Decisions are currently being made at the Ecology Headquarters level on how unspent FY12/unallocated FY13 funds will be allocated. In the past different approaches have been taken to allocate these funds. This time they are taking rankings from each region and funding the 1st priority from each region and then as funding allows the 2nd and 3rd. The 1st priority for the eastern region was continuing the West Plains Groundwater Elevation monitoring, a seepage run on Deep and Coulee Creek, and completing a shallow well installation and whole rock geochemistry associated with the WRIA 54/56 Hydrogeologic study. It is anticipated that this project will be funded. Decisions regarding 2nd and 3rd priority projects will be made in August when final FY12 billings are processed.

The next topic was WRIA 54 Phase IV funding. The projects in the table below were under consideration for Phase IV funds. Some adjustments were made to project costs at the meeting. The Deep & Coulee Creek Restoration Phase II was reduced from \$25,000 to \$19,000; the Lake Spokane Water Quality was reduced from \$19,070 to \$17,000; the Lake Spokane Education project was reduced from \$20,000 to \$13,000; the Spokane County Online Data Warehouse was reduced from \$30,000 to \$10,000; the Subsurface projection of CRBG Stratigraphy and Paleochannel Units in the West Plains was reduced from \$35,000 to \$25,000; the West Plains Recharge Estimate was reduced from \$12,000 to \$10,000. There was considerable discussion on how to allocate funds, and it was decided that individuals would rank the projects and then the top projects from the combined ranking up to \$ 90,000 would be funded (\$10,000 was reserved for project administration and meeting facilitation). The Continued West Plains GW Level Monitoring & Deep/Coulee Creek seepage runs were likely funded from the unspent FY12/unallocated FY13 funds so it was removed from consideration. The table below show the rankings determined at the meeting.

Ranking	Organization	Project	Description	Cost
	Spokane County	Grant Management & Administration	Grant management, project management, meeting coordination & preparation of meeting summaries	\$10,000
2	Chamokane Watershed Council	Council Operation	Operating expenses for watershed council & public outreach	\$ 5,000
2	Land Council	Deep & Coulee Creek Restoration Phase II	Monitor 2012 plantings, additional plantings, and coordination with local schools for planting activities	\$ 19,000
1	Stevens Conservation District	Lake Spokane Water Quality	Continued Lake Spokane Water Quality monitoring	\$17,000
Funded from other source	Spokane County	Continued West Plains GW Level Monitoring & Deep/Coulee Creek seepage runs	Continued monthly and continuous water level monitoring	\$ 15,000
4	Stevens County Conservation District	Lake Spokane Education Project	Continued efforts with Lakeside High School and public outreach	\$13,000
6	Spokane County	Spokane County Online Groundwater Data Warehouse	Development of an accessible online data warehouse of data collected from Watershed Planning projects so that it is usable by the general public	\$ 10,000
7	Spokane County	Non-point source project tracking	Populate database developed during the Spokane River Watershed Nonpoint source project with nonpoint source projects that have been implemented, develop a web based map, and present database and map viewer to stakeholder groups	\$5,000
5	Spokane County	West Plains Recharge Estimate	Utilize the USGS Deep Percolation model to develop spatially distributed recharge estimates on a daily time step for multiple years	\$10,000
3	EWU	Subsurface projection of CRBG Stratigraphy and Paleochannel Units in the West Plains	400 additional records in West Plains database, whole rock geochemistry on up to ten wells, develop contour maps and fence diagrams of Sentinel Bluffs and Wapshilla members of the Grande Ronde Basalt, define major sedimentary layers of unconsolidated fill of West Plains paleochannels	\$25,000
	TOTAL			\$129,000

With the removal of the Continued West Plains GW Level Monitoring & Deep/Coulee Creek seepage runs projects 1-5 will be funded. Rusty announced that all FY13-15 preliminary proposals should be sent to him or Spokane County.

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next WRIA 54 meeting will be on August 22, 2012 from 10-12 at the Spokane County Water Resources Center.

ADJOURN

Rusty Post adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:20 pm.