

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

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

**Wednesday August 8, 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, *SCD*

Rusty Post, *Department of Ecology*

Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water District*

Peter Grunte, *Hangman Resident*

Rick Noll, *SCD*

Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Association*

Dale Gill, *LSR Resident*

Jim Mathieu, *Northwest Land and Water*

Laura Strauss, *Northwest Land and Water*

Mike Hermanson, *Spokane County*

Doug Greenlund, *City of Spokane*

Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*

Amanda Parrish, *Lands Council*

Katherine Rowden, *Natl. Weather Svc.*

Doug Rider, *SC Water Conservancy Bd*

Katherine Rowden, *US Weather Service*

The meeting was called to order by Walt Edelen and the committee members introduced themselves. The July meeting minutes were approved with no changes. No public comments were offered.

Committee Reports and Updates

West Branch LSR Update

Greg Sweeney discussed the issues of aquatic weeds, water elevations, and beaver within the chain lakes area and Diamond Lake.

The group has been dealing with aquatic weed management and has had Spokane County sign off with some assistance. New grants are in the future and the WBLSR and the POCD lakes are targeted.

The Annual Canoe and Kayak Event are on September 15th at Eloika Lake. This event is fun for adults and kids alike. The cost is \$25 a person. The ELA is utilizing this event to help raise funds for more improvements around the lake. Paddleboards are also available this year. Mountain Gear is a proud sponsor of the event.

Amanda Parrish commented on the Diamond Lake levels and working with beaver on Moon Creek. Pond levelers and property owners are often difficult issues. They lost permission on a site due to the landowner being upset with the Association. They have no permission to move forward.

Washington/Idaho Aquifer Group

Rob Lindsay announced that there was no meeting next Wednesday. There was, however, a Water Resources Workshop, but the details were sketchy and last minute. Rob would send out more information when he got it. The workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, the 14th at the U of I Research Center in Post Falls.

State Caucus Recommendations – Spokane River Instream Flow Rule

Rusty Post provided information regarding the recommendations from Ecology. The discussion was very limited. A meeting was coming where people can comment on the Ruling. The Public Meeting is September 19th from 1-3 pm.

WRIA 56 Hydrogeologic Study (Groundwater Monitoring Network)

Rick Noll passed out copies of a draft graph depicting water levels in the monitoring network. Of particular note was the Valleyford Well. There is a significant drop in groundwater elevation (approximately 40 ft) every year. Rick plotted another line indicating the pumping of water at the Freeman HS. This could be a reason for the large drop.

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

Hangman Creek/West Plains Groundwater Expansion Project – Jim Mathieu and Laura Strauss, NWLW Inc.

Jim and Laura presented the most recent data and work on the expansion of the Hangman Creek Groundwater Monitoring Network. The report on which the presentation is based can be acquired at the Spokane Conservation District. Please email rick-noll@sccd.org if you are interested in getting a copy.

Committee Reports and Updates

The Water Sustainability and Availability project is on hold until Ecology approves additional funding to continue meetings. The County Commissioners are very interested in the outcome of the work.

The ELA is interested in obtaining another Implementation Grant with the help of the SCD to treat more areas around the lake. This will be an ongoing maintenance program. Dale Gill was concerned over residual chemical damage to habitat and aquatic life downstream of the lake. The effects were thought to be minimal to none.

The Livestock and Land program completed over 25 projects this past month. These projects entailed livestock improvement projects geared towards protecting water quality. Many of these were in the LSR Watershed. An educational workshop series is being planned for October/November of 2012.

FY 13-15 Biennium Proposals

The following projects were proposed and discussed:

Simulation of groundwater and surface water flow system in the LSR (WRIA 55)

Garden Springs Creek Restoration – City of Spokane

Scenario Planning for WRIA 55/57 - SCD

Mirror Pond Renovation – City of Spokane

Beaver Restoration Work – Lands Council

Irrigation Efficiency Project – Hangman Creek – SCD

Native Nursery and Riparian Enhancement – Hangman Creek – Lands Council

The group reviewed these projects and decided to prioritize the projects by October 1st and submit them to Ecology by the end of October.

Rusty Post reported that the FY13 funds (12K) and proposal packages that were agreed upon by the WRIA group were changed by him due to funding appeal by Ecology. Rusty changed the # 2 and # 3 rankings so that Ecology would provide more funding. The number 2 project was the Lands Council Riparian Project funding. The group approved the change with reservations.

Katherine Rowden announced the upcoming NORFMA, Floodplains Conference in Spokane the week of September 17th. More information would be provided and distributed via email to group members.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting was set for September 12th and will be held at the Spokane Water Resources Center. Spokane County will be facilitating.