

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

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

**Wednesday November 14, 2012
10:00 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>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County Utilities</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Resident – Hangman Valley</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>WBLSR (Horseshoe Lake)</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Dale Gill, <i>Resident – Little Spokane</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Doug Rider, <i>SC Water Conservancy Board</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	

The meeting was called to order by Rob Lindsay and the committee members introduced themselves. The October meeting minutes were approved with a minor change to the October meeting date.

Issues/Announcements:

Doug Greenlund noted the MOA for this group has expired. Rob Lindsay agreed, and responded that the MOA allows for a 2 year extension. Rob noted that the WRIA 54 MOA has also expired and that the County provided a draft MOA for a 2 year extension to the City of Spokane last August to review. Once that review is complete the County proposes to submit the same 2-year extension language for WRIA 55/57. Over the next two years the County hopes the WITs will develop a more regional agreement. Rob agreed to follow up on the status of the WRIA 54 agreement with the City of Spokane and will communicate with the WRIA 55/57 WIT re: a 2 year extension of the WRIA 55/57 MOA consistent with the WRIA 54 MOA.

Dale Gill provided a copy of an article from the November 2012 issue of Scientific American magazine regarding climate change and the potential for accelerated climate changes due to feedback mechanisms including; melting polar ice and associated changes in oceanic circulation and CO2 from melting permafrost.

Projects:

Water Conservation: Walt Edelen provided information from the local Grundfos Pump representative re: available technology to install bypass valves in residential/commercial settings that maintains hot water in the hot water pipes that reduces wasted water when 'waiting' for the water to heat. There was interest in having a presentation in the future about this technology. More information is available at moderncomfort.grundfos.us

Rob Lindsay gave an update on the Spokane County indoor water conservation program. Of note, the residential rebate program will be ending at the end of 2013 but will continue

for commercial/multi-family customers and possibly in the Hangman Hills residential area. The County is currently evaluating the cost effectiveness of the Hangman Hills area.

IWAC: The IWAC group continues to meet monthly. The group is still discussing organizational structure (Interagency MOU vs. non-profit) and roles. Goals and objectives are underway as well. Rusty Post noted that other watershed groups in Washington (e.g., Nisqually) have established different groups (watershed group via MOA, funding organization via non-profit foundation) in order to maximize the eligibility for various funding mechanisms.

Little Spokane Hydrogeology: Rob Lindsay gave a brief presentation of DRAFT figures developed by the USGS for the ongoing Little Spokane Hydrogeology project. The information may be reviewed by contacting Spokane County Water Resources staff.

West Branch Little Spokane River: Greg Sweeny gave a recap of the recent meeting (October 22, 2012). The meeting included representatives from Pend Oreille and Spokane Conservation Districts, WDFW, and the Pend Oreille county commissioner's office. The WBLSR group is now meeting on a semi-annual basis. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2013.

WBLSR Priorities going forward include the following:

1. Noxious weeds/invasive species;
2. High/low water levels and bank erosion;
3. Sedimentation;
4. Beaver mitigation.

Howard Rowley reported that milfoil has not been as prevalent in Horseshoe Lake this season, perhaps due to various upstream efforts by Spokane Conservation District and others to remove milfoil.

Greg Sweeney said the idea for a regional drainage district for the WBLSR has been discussed. He noted the idea as progressive and political, and would require effort to implement.

Greg also reminded the group that the 2013 Annual WALPA meeting this year is in Moses Lake during the summer. The 2013 Annual NALMS meeting will be this winter in Spokane.

CDA Lake Treatment: Dale Gill gave an update on the recent CDA Lake treatment activities using 'Navigate' and the potential effects on the water potato. According to Dale, the treatment program has been occurring over the past 3 years or more. Historical testing has not shown impacts to the water potatoes exceeding EPA criteria (0.07 ppm, per Dale) but the most current data for 2012 is not in yet. Dale will update the group when the data is available.

On Site Septic Loan Program: Walt Edelen announced the SCD had applied for funding to conduct an on-site septic loan program to assist people in replacing failing septic systems in rural areas. Walt thanked those who prepared letters of support.

Funding Update:

Rusty announced that funding for additional FY 13-15 projects may be available, but that time is running out. Rusty indicated this would be a last call for FY 13-15 preliminary projects. He also indicated that once budgets are established for FY13-15 additional information will be sought re: currently proposed projects. Greg Sweeney noted there may be projects discussed at the April 2013 WBLSR meeting.

Program

Doug Greenlund gave a presentation on the status and findings of the recent SVRP aquifer modeling efforts performed as part of the ongoing regional wellhead protection planning activities. The presentation included information from the original wellhead modeling performed in the mid-1990s as well as the revised modeling recently performed with grant funds from WADOH and financial support from the SAJB and administered by the City of Spokane. The revised modeling included additional geographic areas in Idaho (ID was not included in the mid-1990s model) and incorporates information from the USGS Bi-State model completed in 2007. Along with the model upgrades there was an engineering study demonstrating how the model is able to assess impacts to groundwater flow from critical recharge areas such as Chester Creek and Shelly Lake. The revised model indicates the wellhead capture zones are somewhat larger than originally delineated in the mid-1990s. Doug also noted there are ongoing meetings with local governments to develop recommendations for implementing local wellhead protection ordinances.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting was set for December 12th and will be held at 10 am at the Spokane Conservation District offices on N. Havana. Spokane Conservation District will be facilitating.