

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

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

**Wednesday December 12, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Spokane Conservation District
N. 210 Havana
Spokane, WA 99202**

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>	Tom Wimpy, <i>WBLSR, Diamond lake</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</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>	Marcia Davis, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Bill Peacock, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Elaine Snouwaert, <i>Department of Ecology</i>

The meeting was called to order by Walt Edelen and the committee members introduced themselves. The November meeting minutes were approved with a minor change by Rusty Post.

Issues/Announcements:

Amanda Parrish announced that the Lands Council was having a Holiday Party downtown at their office area. The festivities start at 5pm tonight.

Bill Rickard announced that there is a Local Emergency Management Meeting on December 13th. The meeting will be held at the fire station on Montgomery, west of Pines. The meeting will be discussing a planning drill to deal with the potential of a spill from railcars carrying oil. Specifically, they will be planning for a spill over the Hangman Creek Bridge (I-90).

There were no more announcements or public comment.

Project Briefing Presentation: CSO Basin 20 (Hangman Creek Watershed).

Bill Peacock gave a presentation summarizing a project to coordinate the decommissioning of CSO Basin 20. This CSO used to drain directly into Hangman Creek off High Drive. They will not remove the pipe as this could induce more erosion of the hillside and stream bank. The decommissioning of the CSO will be achieved by diverting the flow to a newly constructed drywell system. If there are any questions regarding this project, please contact either Bill Peacock or Lars Hendron at the City of Spokane.

Watershed Updates:

- Watershed MOA
 - Rob Lindsay stated that a new MOA may be needed to continue watershed planning in the county. There was discussion regarding the following issues:
 - Could watershed planning continue without an MOA?
The group decided that an MOA would be best, especially for those who attend regularly.
 - Should we approach watershed planning on a more regional approach?
The group would like a regional approach
 - How long would an MOA extension last (2 years? 10 years?)
Undecided, but a 10 to 20 year approach was recommended
 - Who would be involved in actual watershed planning?
This will be up to each individual entity to decide and get back to the group.
 - Who would help with drafting an MOA?
Susan McGeorge, Rusty Post, Rob Lindsay, Walt Edelen, and others if they so choose. A subgroup committee will be formed to meet.
 - Would legal review be required?
Yes, this will likely be done by each entity as needed.
- Hangman Creek Riparian outreach
 - Amanda Parrish described the Lands Council's role in conducting an outreach grant by the Department of Ecology. The goal is to reach shoreline landowners and make them more aware of their responsibilities as a steward. The Lands Council has retained volunteers to initiate a door to door campaign.
- Water Conservation
 - Rob Lindsay announced that the water conservation rebate program will end December 31, 2012, except for a selected area in the Hangman Watershed (Hangman Hills Estates). This area will receive a higher incentive to install conservation appliances. To date, the program had just shy of 4000 participants.
- Hangman Creek Ground Water Monitoring
 - Rick Noll presented an update of the ground water monitoring network and the installation of the new well. He also presented a graph of the latest data from the network and discussed the potential trends that may be forming. It will take many more years of data to confirm anything. Rick also noted that he had to replace the cables for the data-loggers due to corrosion issues. Stainless steel cables are now employed in each well.

- Water Availability Workshop
 - Rob Lindsay announced that this group is currently seeking comments on the draft report. The next meeting is January 24th, 2013. They plan to complete the report and the project at that time. Letters of position will be accepted up until the 24th. The summary information is available on the County's website.

- CARA Evaluation
 - Rob Lindsay announced that there is a CARA meeting today at 2:30. This work entails a scientific evaluation regarding the aquifer. They will be developing a position regarding on-site septic systems and HDR will be providing a nitrate impact spreadsheet. More information is available on the County's website.

- USGS Stream Gauging Stations
 - Walt Edelen announced that the group should recognize the fact that two entities have taken the reins on the two gauging stations that these groups initiated. They have entered into contracts with the USGS to conduct operation and maintenance on the gauges. The cost to do this is approximately \$19K a year.
 - Whitworth Water District – Elk gauge on the LSR
 - Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Stateline gauge on Hangman Creek

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 9th, 2013. It will be held at 10 am at the Spokane County Water Resources Center on Freya. Spokane County will be facilitating.