

**Meeting Summary**  
**WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed**  
**March 20, 2013**

**Location:** Spokane County Water Resource Center

**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  
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department  
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe  
Dick Price, Stevens PUD  
Lance Peterson, City of Airway Heights  
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology  
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council  
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District  
James Melik, Citizen

**CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 meeting summary.

**PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES**

Amanda Parrish provided an update on the Deep and Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration project. They continue to receive phone calls in response to a mailing to landowners, and they are in the process of planting willow whips on a large parcel on Coulee Creek on which they did some work on in 2012.

Charlie Kessler provided an update on projects the Stevens County Conservation District is working on including the Lake Spokane Water Quality project, Stevens County Education project, and the Chamokane Watershed Council.

The Lake Spokane Water Quality Project: There has not been any sampling recently because the lake drawdown. Sampling will likely resume in April. There are five more sampling events left, with most concentrated in June because there is more lake shore activity after Memorial Day Weekend. Work on data analysis is ongoing.

The Stevens County Education project: The program is continuing with natural resource professionals giving classroom presentations, and student projects related to water quality.

Chamokane Watershed Council: They are in the process of finding a new chairman since the current chairman, Wes McCart, is now a Stevens County Commissioner. A brochure was developed and mailed to approximately 1,000 Chamokane area residents. The brochure describes the council and its activities, and invites them to participate.

Mike Hermanson provided an update on the West Plains Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and Mapping. Data collection activities are ongoing and work on data analysis and a summary report is in progress.

## **WATER AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY FINAL PROJECT REPORT**

Mike Hermanson provided an overview of the Water Availability and Sustainability project that was completed at the end of January. He discussed the project development, the project goals, meetings of the advisory group, and the final recommendations. The final report that describes the project in detail is available on the Spokane County website

## **FY13-15 FUNDING UPDATE**

Rusty Post provided an update on funding for the next biennium. At this point the legislature has not released their operating budget proposals. The Governor's proposal includes funds for Watershed Planning and indicates some would be directed to the Lower Spokane Watershed for Phase IV Implementation.

## **REGIONAL WATERSHED PLANNING APPROACH**

Rob Lindsay provided an update on developing a regional watershed planning approach. WRIA's 55/56/57 are not eligible anymore for Phase IV funding, just implementation project grants. Spokane County and the Spokane Conservation District have been providing administrative support for those groups to date. There has been discussion of developing a mechanism for participating entities to contribute a modest amount to compensate an entity to provide administrative support such as meeting agendas, summaries, etc. Once WRIA 54 is no longer eligible for Phase IV funding joining this group is an option.

## **ADJOURN**

Rusty Post adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.