

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
May 22, 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
Dick Price, Stevens PUD
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council
Charlie Peterson, Spokane Conservation District
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Hermanson opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved the March 20th, 2013 meeting summary.

PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES

Amanda Parrish provided an update on the Deep and Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration project. To date they have planted 1,300 plants, 300 last fall and 1,000 this spring. More planting will be done in the coming weeks. They also continue to maintain other plantings done as part of this project.

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

The Lake Spokane Water Quality Project: Monitoring will resume beginning tomorrow. There will be 5 more sampling events. Also, Charlie is giving a presentation to the Spokane River DO TMDL Implementation meeting this afternoon about the Lake Spokane Water Quality project and the education activities.

The Stevens County Education project: The program is continuing with natural resource professionals giving classroom presentations, and student projects related to water quality. The high school students gave presentations on the projects they have been working on to 6th grade classes.

Mike Hermanson provided an update on the West Plains Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and Mapping. Currently Spokane County is wrapping up three projects: 1. West Plains Recharge Estimate, 2. Deep and Coulee Seepage Run, and 3. Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and Mapping. Remaining data is being collected and final reports are being prepared.

Dick Price provided some information on a water banking study that is being completed in WRIA 59. There was interest in discussing the potential for collaboration of Northeast Washington watersheds in water banking activities.

DEEP CREEK AND COULEE CREEK SEEPAGE RUNS

Mike Hermanson presented the results of the Deep Creek and Coulee Creek Seepage Run Project that was completed with funds from the West Plains Groundwater Elevation Monitoring and Mapping grant. Stream flow measurements were taken at 18 locations on Deep Creek and 7 locations on Coulee Creek in the fall of 2012 to estimate the interchange of ground and surface water. Ground and surface water interaction is an important component of a hydrogeologic system, and there was limited historical flow data for these creeks on which to base an estimate, so this project filled an important data gap.

FY13-15 FUNDING UPDATE

Rusty Post provided Mike Hermanson with a funding update that he passed on to the group. The legislature has not passed a budget, but all operating budget proposals to date include approximately 2.8 million for Watershed Planning, and WRIA 54 is listed specifically in the budget notes, so the likely scenario is that WRIA 54 will receive \$50,000 for FY14 for Phase IV implementation.

PHASE IV IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT PROPOSALS

Four project proposals were submitted for consideration for Phase IV Implementation funding, if awarded, in FY14:

1. Lake Spokane Education Project submitted by the Stevens County Conservation District with a budget of \$24,000.
2. Deep and Coulee Riparian Restoration submitted by the Lands Council with a budget of \$11,000.
3. Lake Spokane Beaver Study and Management submitted by the Lands Council with a budget of \$16,000.
4. Google Earth Hydrogeologic Data Portal submitted by Spokane County with a budget of \$20,000.

Each project proponent described their project, and then the group discussed how to allocate the \$50,000 of Phase IV Implementation Funding if it is received. Project Management & Administration is \$10,000 so \$40,000 remains for projects. Various funding scenarios and potential project changes were discussed and the group agreed that the Phase IV funding would be allocated in the following manner:

1. \$10,000: Project Management & Administration
2. \$15,000: Lake Spokane Education Project
3. \$9,000: Deep and Coulee Riparian Restoration
4. \$16,000: Google Earth Hydrogeologic Data Portal

ADJOURN

Mike Hermanson adjourned the meeting shortly after 12:00 pm.