

Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
June 26, 2013

Location: Airway Heights Water Reclamation Facility

Planning Unit members and guests in attendance / recorded on the sign-in sheet were:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Rusty Post, Department of Ecology
Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department
Dick Price, Stevens PUD
Lance Peterson, City of Airway Heights
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council
Rick Noll, Spokane Conservation District
Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District
David Luders, Indian Village Estates Water Association, Fairchild Air Force Base

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves. The group approved the May 22nd 2013 meeting summary.

PUBLIC COMMENT/WIT MEMBER UPDATES

Dick Price provided information on how WRIA 59 is tracking water resource information and management options. He provided a spreadsheet that included measured stream flows, low flows, projections of new homes by basin, estimated future demand, etc.

Rob Lindsay updated the group that Bruce Rawls retired from his position as Spokane County Utilities Director, and Kevin Cooke is the new Utilities Director.

PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES

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.

LAKE SPOKANE WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Charlie Kessler gave a presentation on the Lake Spokane Water Quality project that Stevens County Conservation District recently completed. The project was funded by the WRIA 54 Phase IV grant. The goal of the project was to identify areas of the lake that receive inflow from onsite septic systems by using optical brighteners found in laundry detergent. Key findings of the project were that low concentrations of optical brighteners are found throughout the lake and it may not be the best onsite septic system inflow tracer.

DEEP CREEK AND COULEE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Amanda Parrish gave a presentation on the Deep Creek and Coulee Creek Restoration Project. The project included maintenance of plantings done in the spring of 2012 (watering, application of herbivory repellants), identification of new restoration sites and land owner outreach, and planting along both Coulee Creek and Deep Creek in the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013.

FY13-15 FUNDING UPDATE

Rusty Post provided an update on Watershed Planning funding for the 2013-15 biennium. At this time the Washington State Legislature has not passed a budget, though all proposals to date have included a modest amount of funding for Watershed Planning. Ecology Eastern Region Staff have met and reviewed projects submitted for funding. At the meeting they determined that the best approach for them was to recommend two high priority project for funding from the Eastern Region, and leave the remaining unranked at this point. The two high priority projects are the WRIA 54 Phase IV grant and the West Plain Water Budget and Hydrogeological Framework project. Rusty has been asked to provide a ranking to Ecology headquarters staff for the remaining projects. The group discussed the projects that have been proposed from WRIA 54 and agreed to the following ranking:

1. WRIA 54 Phase IV Grant
2. West Plains Water Budget and Hydrogeological Framework
3. Google Earth Hydrogeological Data Portal
4. Deep Creek and Coulee Creek Restoration Phase III
5. Lake Spokane Education Project
6. Lake Spokane near shore groundwater surface water assessment (in cooperation with USGS)
7. Lake Spokane Beaver Habitat Study

ADJOURN

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