

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

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

**Wednesday July 10, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Spokane Conservation District**

**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 Creek</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>WBLSR (Horseshoe Lake)</i>	Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Doug Rider, <i>SC Water Conservancy Board</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>West Branch LSR/Eloika</i>
Linda Kiefer, <i>Avista Corp.</i>	Doug Rider, <i>SCWCB</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>SCD</i>	Michael Hamilton, <i>NWLW (sub-contractor)</i>
Cadie Olsen, <i>INLT</i>	

The July, 2013 meeting was called to order by Walt Edelen and the committee members introduced themselves. There was no June 2013 meeting. The May 2013 meeting minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Greg Sweeney noted that the grant numbers and years were wrong in the minutes on page 1. He suggested adding language indicating that: The SCD, in coordination with the ELA, procured an Aquatic Weed Management Grant in 2010-12 Biennium for \$75K. More recently, we were awarded another \$25K for 2014-15 to continue addressing Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake.

There were no other additions, deletions, or changes noted.

Susan McGeorge noted that she has an updated email and has not recently received notices. She gave her email address to Walt and Rob.

**Issues/Announcements/Public Comment:**

The SCD brought forth an immediate issue involving a fish habitat enhancement project they are conducting on the Spokane River. The project is located near the Stateline and will include riparian habitat enhancement along the banks, address bank erosion areas, and improve the public access point.

The SCD needs approval from the WRIA 55/57 Implementation Team Members to approve the project. A formal letter from the group is required for the permitting process with WDFW.

Rob Lindsay, of WRIA 55/57 addressed the issue and prompted a vote for the project. The project was unanimously approved. Rob stated he would develop and submit a letter ASAP to the SCD.

**Hangman Creek Watershed Hydrogeology Presentation:** Mike Hamilton (Geologist)

Mr. Mike Hamilton, a sub-contractor to Northwest Land and Water (NWLW) provided the results of the whole rock analysis work conducted last year.

Mike focused his presentation on three main topics:

1. Analysis of paleochannel groundwater samples
2. The Hydrogeologic characterization in the Freeman area
3. Edits and revisions of groundwater contour maps of the Wanapum and Grande Ronde Aquifers.

**Paleochannel groundwater samples:** In 2012, Spokane County collected groundwater samples from eight wells; however, because of budgetary constraints, only seven were analyzed for 14C and tritium. As part of Task 6, the remaining sample, collected from Well 472535, was analyzed. This well is completed in the paleochannel deposits near the Polo Grounds.

The overall results support the hypothesis that the paleochannel deposits are recharging the underlying Grande Ronde aquifer.

**Hydrogeologic Characterization of the Freeman Area:** MW-6 was installed in the vicinity of Valleyford in the California Creek sub-basin of WRIA 56 as part of the original scope of work for WRIA 56 in 2010. The well was equipped with a pressure transducer to provide continuous water level data. The SCD manages this digital monitoring data. In August 2011, SCD personnel lowered the pressure transducer after observing that the water level in MW-6 dropped significantly. In fact, during both 2011 and 2012, the water level in MW-6 changed by about 45 feet. Water levels began to decline in early June 2011 and early May 2012 and rose again in mid-September during both years.

NWLW was tasked to investigate the cause of this fluctuation, which is too large to be attributable to natural seasonal variation. NWLW constructed a cross-section to better evaluate if the Freeman irrigation accounted for this fluctuation.

The cross-section illustrated that basement rock dominates the geology from MW-6 to Hangman Creek. The basement rock limits lateral hydraulic continuity, likely creating a localized groundwater system between the Freeman School area and MW-6. If there is a strong hydraulic connection within this localized system, then this connection would account for the observed response in MW-6 due to pumping the Freeman school well.

**Edits and Revisions of Groundwater Contour Maps of the Wanapum and Grande Ronde Aquifers:** Water level contour maps were prepared for the Wanapum and Grande Ronde units using synoptic measurements made by Spokane County in fall 2011 and spring 2012. This data is discussed in detail in Spokane County's June 2013, report that is in production as this is written. NWLW worked closely with Spokane County

to review and revise the first drafts of these maps. Final contours are available in the report.

Lindsay Chutas provided a Dropbox site address for uploading the NWLW final report.

## **Updates**

### **1. Regional MOA Development:**

Rob discussed the minimal progress on the MOA. The group will be scheduled to get back together within the next month. Rob will send out the draft by the end of the week.

### **2. USGS Hydrogeology Assessment in the Little Spokane River watershed**

Rob Lindsay reported the draft report has been completed and is in peer review. The USGS has completed their internal review. Copies will be printed and available soon. Sue Kahle (USGS) will present their work at the upcoming August Meeting.

### **3. Ecology Watershed Planning Budget**

Rusty Post was pleased to announce that there is a budget. It is small, but there is funding for 2 FTE watershed leads statewide and two million dollar budget for projects. Most of this budget is for WRIAs that are still planning and implementing, but that there will be some funds available for the Spokane Area. We will have more information regarding this next week. Our area is looking to fund the hydrogeological compilation project put forward by the County. This project would consolidate all the information that has been collected over the years.

### **4. Spokane River Instream Flow Ruling**

Rusty Post informed the group that the instream flow ruling was moving forward. All the internal work from Ecology has been completed. A presentation by the ERO would be given to the Director of Ecology this week. The public process will begin shortly in September.

### **5. Spangle Flood Hazard Analysis Report**

The SCD has been coordinating with the Town of Spangle to conduct a flood hazard analysis of Spangle Creek as it runs directly through the town. The SCD hired a consultant through WSCC engineering funding. The report is available through the SCD.

### **6. Tekoa Smart Irrigation Project**

The SCD is working with the City of Tekoa to retrofit an age-old irrigation system at one of their public parks. The system will include the latest "smart" irrigation technology. The project will commence this summer to help provide significant conservation of energy and water.

### **7. Saltese Flats Restoration Project**

Rob Lindsay reported that the project is moving forward, and has recently had some issues with floodplain identification in coordination with the City of Spokane Valley.

### **Upcoming meetings/programs**

It was discussed that the August meeting would include a presentation from the USGS on their findings in the LSR study.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It will be held at 10 am at the Spokane County Water Resources Center.