

**Meeting Summary
WRIA 54 - Lower Spokane River Watershed
January 22, 2014**

Location: Airway Heights Advanced Water Reclamation Facility

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

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County

Rusty Post, Department of Ecology

Doug Greenlund, City of Spokane

Bill Rickard, City of Spokane Water Department

Lindsay Chutas, Spokane Conservation District

Amanda Parrish, Lands Council

Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors/Lake Spokane Park Homeowners Association

Harvey Morrison, Trout Unlimited

CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Rusty Post opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Participants introduced themselves.

The group approved the September 25th 2013 meeting summary.

PUBLIC COMMENT/WIT MEMBER UPDATES

Amanda Parrish informed the group that the Lands Council along with Sherriff Knezovich are giving a presentation to the West Plains Chamber of Commerce about working with Geiger Corrections work crews for restoration work and starting a native plant nursery. At the end of the meeting Rusty Post informed the group that Ecology filed the necessary documents with the State Code Revisers Office to begin rulemaking for the Spokane River Instream Flow rule.

PHASE IV PROJECT UPDATES

Mike Hermanson provided an update on the Google Earth data portal project. They are working with the county information systems department to develop the web interface and continue to gather and format data. Mike also reviewed a written update provided by Charlie Kessler on the Stevens County education project. They held a field workshop with 151 Lakeside High School students last fall, scheduled classroom presentations for the second semester, and worked with other Stevens County agencies to develop a recycling and composting workshop for the Suncrest area. Amanda Parrish provided an update on the Deep and Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration project. Last fall they conducted maintenance on existing plantings. Some maintenance was done by a Geiger Corrections work crew. They also surveyed the plantings and estimate a 60% survival rate. Mike Hermanson also provided an update on the West Plains Hydrogeologic Framework project. A consultant team comprised of Groundwater Solutions Inc, Geo Engineers, Intera, and Carlstad Consulting was selected for the project. The county is currently refining the scope of work and contract.

WATER BANKING DISCUSSION

Rusty Post opened the discussion with a review of water banking in Washington State. The review included a description of what a water bank is, what the purpose of a water bank is, types of water banks that are currently in operation in the State of Washington, the institutional mechanisms that

support water banking, such as the trust water rights program. He also described the upcoming Little Spokane Water Bank feasibility study. There was discussion about various aspects of water banking including:

- Specific aspects of water banking transactions
- Water banking needs/demand in WRIA 54
- Water markets and pricing

DISCUSSION-REGIONAL WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION MOA

A draft copy of the Regional Watershed MOA was distributed with the meeting agenda. The group discussed changes that had been made to the draft MOA since the September 25, 2013 WRIA 54 meeting. The changes included clarification of some definitions and additional language to describe the role of the lead agency. There are still some items to address in the draft MOA including funding contributions, annual report, a mechanism to change lead agency, etc. The group determined that the most efficient way to finish the MOA is to have a meeting with all three watershed groups. It was also discussed that it may be time to start meeting as one regional watershed group, rather than separately.

ADJOURN

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