

WRIA 54 WMWG 6/05/2008
WATER CONSERVATION ISSUES / SOLUTIONS MATRIX

Water Supply Issue/Problem	Current Status	Additional Data Needed	Possible Solutions or Toolbox
<p>There is a need for improvements in water use efficiency and conservation.</p>	<p>Municipal water providers required to develop water use efficiency and conservation measures. Water use efficiency and conservation planning requirements are based on existing State statutes directing Ecology and WDOH to encourage water use efficiency. Water use efficiency and conservation planning may include regular water audits, outdoor landscaping and irrigation guidelines, retrofitting with low flow indoor fixtures etc. Expanding systems and grant recipients are required to develop plans. There is no regular schedule for small water system management plans.</p> <p>What water use efficiency / conservation programs are ongoing in / adjacent to WRIA 54?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokane County – limited to sewer basin (which is outside WRIA 54) to reduce amount of sewage to treatment plant – one of TMDL action steps. • City of Spokane Water Stewardship – long term conservation plan both indoor and outdoor – have goals set. • SAJB • Ecology’s Regional Water Conservation Collaboration (RWCC) – Lincoln County, Stevens County and Medical Lake currently do not attend. • WRIA 55/57 outdoor irrigation education. 	<p>Request clarification from State that watershed plans can obligate purveyors to more stringent water use efficiency and conservation measures. <i>Bryony has an email in to Mike Dexel (WDOH).</i></p> <p><i>Planning Unit develop list of purveyors that will be working on water use efficiency / conservation goal setting – County to complete this. Schedule on WDOH website???</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage Lincoln County, Stevens County and Medical Lake to join the Regional Water Conservation Collaboration (RWCC) and encourage the RWCC to outreach to Lincoln County, Stevens County and Medical Lake. Ecology to send letter of invitation to those entities that are not currently participating. ➤ Recommend that Ecology lead the RWCC (objective of communication on individual water conservation efforts). <i>Bryony has email in to Brook Beeler (Ecology).</i> ➤ Encourage Stevens and Lincoln Counties to hire a water resource staff person to consider multi-WRIA initiatives / grant apps / planning fees. ➤ Recommend that the WRIA 54 Planning Unit send a letter to the purveyors up to six months before water use efficiency / conservation goal setting with recommendations to consider.

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<p>There is a need for improvements in water use efficiency and conservation (cont).</p>	<p>The CDs and NRCS have programs for ag water conservation and irrigation efficiencies. Ecology also has funding available for agricultural water conservation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommend that purveyors provide notice to WRIA 54 Planning Unit on goal setting meetings. ➤ Recommend that the “use it or lose it” timeframe for relinquishment is increased from 5 to 10 years since 5 years is a disincentive to conservation (RCW 90.14.130-180). <i>Sara will check with Ecology Water Resources on this.</i> ➤ Provide education, outreach and assistance on utilizing the water trust program (to park water rights) to farmers as a component of water rights and conservation education. ➤ Develop and adopt landscape ordinances and incentives that promote efficient outdoor water use. Implementing entities could include both land use regulators and purveyors. Compliance required for all new developments and will include strategies (e.g., incentives) for addressing existing developments not needing new approvals.

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<p>There is a need for improvements in water use efficiency and conservation (cont).</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with stormwater regulators on finding ways to design stormwater disposal that does not involve use of grass (i.e., options to the grassy swale). More drought resistant grasses and plants could be considered. ➤ Provide public education on the parameters of permit exempt wells. ➤ Develop, support and implement a public education program for water use efficiency and conservation (for Group B water systems and the public). ➤ Recommend that Counties, purveyors and utilities develop and implement system retrofit and rebate programs to replace high flow toilets, showers, appliances etc. with new low flow fixtures and appliances. ➤ Recommend that the State provide water conservation incentives/credits/rewards (e.g., increased funding opportunities).

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<p>There is a need for improvements in water use efficiency and conservation (cont).</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommend that Federal, State, County and City organizations develop and implement water use efficiency and conservation plans to ensure efficient water use in Federal, State, County and City facilities (including concessionaires within facilities). ➤ Recommend that the State establish a statewide media campaign on water use efficiency and conservation (via TV and radio). ➤ Coordinate water use efficiency and conservation measures in WRIA 54 through the RWCC and Spokane County Coordinated Water System Planning. ➤ Recommend that the State provide funding for indoor and outdoor water use efficiency / conservation for water systems and local governments (for appliances and equipment).

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<p>There is a need for improvements in water use efficiency and conservation (cont).</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommend that local governments develop and implement a regionally consistent ordinance to restrict outdoor irrigation consistent with the recommendations from the WA-ID regional dialogue.