

WRIA 54 Water Management Work Group Meeting

02/13/2008

Attendees: Sara Hunt, Charlie Peterson, Bill Rickard (sitting in for Lloyd Brewer), David Luders, Craig Volosing, Mike Hermanson, Rob Lindsay, Brian Crossley, Wes McCart, Stan Miller, Sarah Orrange, Larry Guenther, Bill shelton (FAFB), Dave Jones.

Facilitated by: Bryony Stasney.

GOALS

Group reviewed the goals for water management in WRIA 54 and agreed to the following:

- ❑ Balance the needs of instream and out of stream uses.
- ❑ Strive for water availability in the future to protect quality of life, healthy economy, and a healthy environment.
- ❑ Promote sustainable use of water resources.
- ❑ Strive for adequate laws and regulations that are dictated by reality and that support sustainable management of water resources.
- ❑ Coordinate water availability and areas of development.

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE WATER RIGHTS

David Luders updated the WMWG on the FAFB water rights concern. David's update is included in the water supply matrix.

WATER SUPPLY – MATRIX REVIEW

Using the handout as a guide (WRIA 54 WMWG 021208 Water Supply Issues / Solutions Matrix), the group discussed water supply issues and potential strategies to address the issues. The results of the discussion are included in the WRIA 54 WMWG Water Supply Issues / Solutions Matrix (updated 022608).

Next meetings

The Water Management Work Group agreed to the following 2008 meeting dates:

- March 21, 9 – noon, Spokane County Public Works Building, Conf. Rm 4A.
 - Topic – Water use (including conservation, reclamation and reuse)

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WATER SUPPLY ISSUES / SOLUTIONS MATRIX

Water Supply Issue/Problem	Current Status	Additional Data Needed	Possible Solutions or Toolbox
<p>There is a need to resolve Fairchild AFB's water rights concerns.</p>	<p>FAFB Water System Plan update must be approved by WDOH by 1 Jul 08. Review process takes at least 3 months. Water rights assessment is an integral part and is reviewed by Ecology. Utility Privatization Team at FAFB 17-21 Mar 08. Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) Team at FAFB 7-8 Apr 08.</p> <p>FAFB Water System service area is bounded by City of Airway Heights and Fairchild Mobile Home Park to north and northeast, City of Spokane to the east and City of Medical Lake to the east and south.</p> <p>FAFB (David Luders) met with Ecology (Keith Stoffel and Gene Drury) on 7 Feb 08.</p> <p><u>Under the 2003 "Amended Reports of Examination":</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well 2 is separate from Wells 5-7, since it's not in the same body of groundwater and it's in a different Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) ▪ Since Well 7 was drilled in 1954, Claim #112894 of "vested rights" appears invalid since well didn't exist prior to 1945 ▪ FAFB may use Wells 5, 6, 7 & 2 (all) <p><u>FAFB may pool together the "vested rights" for Wells 5, 6, & 7:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well 5,6,7 Claim #112893 = 3,130.24 ac-ft/yr. (1,019,991,834 gal./yr.), + 		<p><i>None at present. FAFB will revisit this in July 2008.</i></p>

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<p>There is a need to resolve Fairchild AFB's water rights concerns (cont).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well 5,6,7 Claim #112895 = 1,545.79 ac-ft (503,697,217 gal./yr.), = • “Authorized Total” of 4,676.03 ac-ft/yr. (1,523,689,051 gal./yr.) • This is the total that can be withdrawn from Wells 5, 6, & 7. <p>Actual CY 2007 water production for Wells 5-7 = 2,084.92 ac-ft/yr (679,374,000 gal).</p> <p>Theoretical “Extra” water for Enhanced Use Lease/Privatization = (4,676.03 – 2,084.92) ac-ft/yr. = 2,591.11 ac-ft/yr. (844,315,784 gal/yr.)</p> <p>Under 2003 Municipal Water Law, “place of use” must be in accordance with RCW 90.03.386(2). However, DOH must approve change in Service Area Boundary in approved FAFB Water System Plan (WSP). Adjacent water purveyors must review draft WSP, and approve change in Service Area.</p> <p>Depending on the results of the WSP update review and the recommendations of the privatization team, FAFB may consider selling or leasing excess / inchoate water. Unclear if FAFB holds inchoate water rights since water rights are not permits or certificates. FAFB may need to extend its water system service area to allow lease / sale of water.</p>		

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<p>Lack of coordinated water supply planning and infrastructure development is creating a fragmented approach to meeting current and future water needs in the West Plains area.</p>	<p>Future consumptive water needs are expected to increase by about 57% by 2025 (based on WRIA 54 growth projections). Increase likely to be focused in two areas: 1) West Plains; and, 2) near the Spokane River downstream from the City of Spokane (i.e., Suncrest area).</p> <p>Water system service areas cover some of the areas where future water demand is anticipated to be high. However, existing purveyor systems may not be fully built and other parts of these growth areas are not in established water service areas (see Fig 7-1 of the WRIA 54 Tech Assessment).</p> <p>There is lack of communication between the purveyors which exacerbates the challenges to provide water to customers on the West Plains customers. During 2006-2007 Ecology facilitated discussions among the West Plains purveyors to identify potential solutions to lack of water in some areas. In Feb 2007, a water supply summit was held at EWU to discuss West Plains water issues.</p> <p>No funds to update Spokane County Coordinated WSP. WSPs need to be consistent with Watershed Plans.</p> <p>City of Spokane infrastructure will extend to Craig Road and Hwy 902. Intertie opp for Medical Lake?? Rob Lindsay will contact Doug Ross.</p>	<p>Evaluate if inchoate water rights can meet anticipated future water demand.</p> <p>Contact Doug Ross to see if Medical Lake have specific data needs (Rob Lindsay to contact Doug Ross).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Plains water purveyors (potential partners may include: Airway Heights, FAFB, Medical Lake, City of Spokane, Four Lakes, Stevens PUD) should form a cooperative organization for coordinated planning for the mutual benefit of participating water purveyors. • Funding to update the Spokane County Coordinated Water System Plan. The process may include addressing such issues as: planning to provide water for current and future needs on the West Plains; sharing / leasing / acquisition of water rights; sharing of water system plans; water rights transfers; interties; infrastructure improvements; conservation. Ecology and WDOH should be involved. • Clarify mechanism for water systems to provide WSPs to adjacent purveyors. • Water systems to inform WRIA 54 Planning Unit of public meetings associated with WSP updates.

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<p>Lack of coordinated water supply planning and infrastructure development is creating a fragmented approach to meeting current and future water needs in the West Plains area (cont).</p>	<p>Water systems should include the availability of the water resource to deliver drinking water from a quantity (aquifer / watershed source capacity) and water rights standpoint.</p> <p>Identification of a future service area carries with it the responsibility for providing water service to that area in a timely and reasonable manner. Source limitation is a criteria used to establish future service area boundaries.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3; transform: rotate(-45deg);">DRAFT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate a groundwater management area for the West Plains (that would include conservation agreements). • Promote growth connected to sustainable use of resources. (refer to land use solutions for specifics). • Recommend water systems consider their available water (i.e. water rights and aquifer / watershed source capacity) in designation of service areas. <i>Note that this is recommended within the Water System Planning Handbook. Need recommendation here??</i> • Consider covenants on lot deeds that require hook up in a timely and reasonable manner to water systems if and when water system service becomes available.

Comment [Bill R.1]: City of Spokane has serious reservations about this "possible solution". Further discussion would need to take place before this could be acceptable.

Comment [Bill R.2]: Unless someone could clarify how this would work, and add details, this is a matter between a property owner and a water system.

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<p>West Plains purveyors are having difficulty providing water to customer and aquifers are showing signs of strain.</p>	<p>Geophysical study starting for the West Plains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrogeology and water resources of the West Plains. Evaluate Suncrest cataract deposits for ASR and enhanced recharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve / increase connectivity between water systems. <i>Rob Lindsay will communicate with Doug Ross (Medical Lake).</i> Evaluate (e.g., how much, withdrawal points) transfer of water from the SVRP aquifer to the West Plains in light of the bi-state study, on-going adjudication efforts and Spokane River instream flow process. West Plains ASR. Suncrest ASR / enhanced recharge. Water conservation, reclamation and reuse.

Comment [Bill R.3]: How is this different from the function of an update of the Spokane County Coordinated Water System Plan. If there is the same function, it should be eliminated.

Comment [SB4]: City of Spokane suggests ASR using reclaimed water only.

Comment [Bill R.5]: I've never understood this "solution". Does Stevens County PUD have a shortage of water?

Comment [SB6]: City of Spokane suggests that conservation, reclamation and reuse be addressed in water system plans and wastewater plans per statutory requirements.

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<p>There is a need to provide water for current and future municipal and domestic needs throughout WRIA 54.</p>	<p>Being considered by the WRIA 54 / 57 instream flow work group through consideration of reservation. <i>The reservation may apply only to groundwater withdrawn from the SVRP aquifer.</i></p> <p><i>Chamokane Creek instream flow is not being met. There is an on-going study in Chamokane subbasin to characterize hydrogeology and evaluate impact of de-minimus uses.</i></p> <p><i>Spokane Arm systems (Lincoln Co.) cannot get water rights through Ecology. Potential water use permit through Spokane Tribe?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not know if water is available in more remote WRIA 54 subbasins. <i>What is the future water demand in WRIA 54 and how does this demand compare to water resources?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of permit exempt wells in more remote subbasins / subbasins with current low water use. Evaluation of larger water uses may be needed <i>at the time of application for water withdrawal by the statutory authorities, consistent with state law and the planning documents adopted for WRIA 54.</i> Consider possible avenues for potential water use permits through Tribal reserve water rights (e.g., the Spokane Arm systems in Lincoln County). Proactively address adverse impacts of permit exempt wells (e.g., via designation of CARAs, water overlays) – <i>refer to possible solutions in Land Use matrix.</i> Consider storage options. Consider water banking, water trusts, leasing and acquisition. Recommend that the legislature amend current law to allow water banking throughout the state.

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<p>The Wellpinit water system is in need of additional water sources.</p>	<p>The Wellpinit water system is in need of additional water sources and is considering additional wells in the Little Chamokane subbasin. Are the wells connected to sw in the Little Chamokane drainage? The Tribe believes that Little Chamokane Creek may be flow limited wrt fisheries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogeo (sw / gw connection) for Little Chamokane. • Little Chamokane Creek instream flow needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogeologic characterization (incl. sw / gw connectivity) for Little Chamokane subbasin. • Evaluate impact of new water sources in the Little Chamokane subbasin on flows of Little Chamokane Creek.

DRAFT