

Meeting Summary
Planning Unit
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
February 19, 2003

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Doug Allen, <i>Dept. of Ecology</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water</i>	Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer</i>
Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane County</i>	<i>Joint Board</i>
Harry McLean, Jr., <i>City of</i>	<i>Conservation District</i>	Megan Harding, <i>Dept. of</i>
<i>Spokane Water</i>	Terry Liberty, <i>Spokane County</i>	<i>Health</i>
Jim Hollingsworth, <i>The Lands</i>	<i>Planning</i>	Karin Divins, <i>Dept of Fish and</i>
<i>Council</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>
Ken Kuhn, <i>Pend Oreille</i>	<i>Water District</i>	Stan Miller, <i>Spokane County</i>
<i>County Planning</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane County</i>	Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane</i>
Julia McHugh, <i>SAJB</i>	<i>Conservation District</i>	<i>County</i>
Jim Wilson, <i>Association of</i>	Tom Hargreaves, <i>Friends of</i>	Bill Gilmour, <i>Spokane County</i>
<i>Realtors</i>	<i>Little Spokane Valley</i>	
Gus Koedding, <i>Spokane</i>		
<i>Homebuilders Assoc.</i>		

Consultants that attended the meeting were: Sarah Hubbard-Gray of Hubbard Gray Consulting and Bryony Hansen of Golder Associates.

Guests that attended the meeting were: none.

Introductions: Sarah Hubbard-Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Committee members introduced themselves. Sarah asked if there were comments on the January 15, 2003 Meeting Summary. No comments or corrections to the meeting summary were requested.

Status of Spokane River Instream Flow Agreement: Sarah Hubbard-Gray reminded the Planning Unit that at the January 2003 meeting Stan Miller was asked to submit the Middle Spokane River Step A instream flow funding application by the January 30th deadline, with the understanding that a final Planning Unit decision would be made at the February 2003 meeting. Stan Miller indicated that the grant funding application had been submitted which requested \$11,000 for Step A and that \$2500 had been approved through June 2003. Stan also explained that Avista's relicensing efforts will evaluate the affect of dam operation modifications on water quality and fisheries in the Spokane River, that they have selected two contractors to conduct the evaluations. Stan explained that:

- The Planning Unit's work would be coordinated with Avista's work, will not duplicate efforts, and will consider Avista's fisheries/spawning results when an instream flow recommendation is developed.
- Step A work will be coordinated with Hal Beecher and other representatives of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and identify methods to use to conduct the instream flow evaluation.

Following a short discussion, all of the Planning Unit members present confirmed the decision to move forward with the Middle Spokane River Step A Instream Flow work.

Continued Discussion on Non-aquatic Biota Instream Flow Elements for Little Spokane River: Sarah Hubbard-Gray reviewed the recommendations that the Planning Unit sub-groups developed at the January 2003 meeting. The recommendations were posted wall charts and discussed. The Planning Units confirmed the following Overall objectives and Aquatic Biota objectives and criteria:

Overall

Objectives:

- Assure that recommended instream flows for the Little Spokane River protect all designated beneficial uses.

Aquatic Biota

Objectives:

- Assure that instream flow recommendations resulting from this plan meet the needs of selected fish species (rainbow trout and mountain whitefish) and other representative aquatic biota.

Criteria:

- Are the flows adequate for salmonid spawning and rearing in the mainstream and major tributaries?
- Do the high flow levels provide adequate flow to cleanse deposited silt, without increasing erosion or excessive silt deposits?
- Do the flows support diverse aquatic biota production (e.g., macroinvertebrates, frogs, salamanders)?
- Is the existing instream flow rule sufficiently protective of fish habitat?
- Are changes to the existing instream flow needed to protect selected fish species?

However, the remaining Water Quality, Recreation and Aesthetics, and Power Production objectives and criteria were not confirmed at the meeting. It was decided that an Instream Flow work group would be formed to develop recommended objectives and criteria for these remaining elements and address additional instream flow issues/needs for both the Little Spokane and Middle Spokane instream flow work. A sign up sheet was sent around the room and a work group meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2003 at 2:00 pm at the Spokane County Conservation District office.

Scenarios for Model Use: None of the Planning Unit members brought proposals for model runs to the meeting. Stan Miller provided some suggestions for possible model runs that could provide information to help the Planning Unit form recommendations. It was decided that a work group would be formed address model use. A sign up sheet was passed around the room and a work group meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2003 at 2:00 pm.

Other items of Public or Committee Concern: Planning Unit members provided the following reminders/information:

- A Watershed Planning training session is scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2003. Call Doug Allen for information.
- Doug Allen reminded the Planning Unit that Ecology has \$10,000 held for them for storage work. Stan Miller indicated that he did not see the need for, or ability to do, any storage work by June 2003. The rest of the Planning Unit members concurred.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday March 19, 2003 at 10:00 am at the Spokane County Conservation District. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.