

**WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER WATERSHED
COMMITTEE**

Meeting Summary
Monday, February 26, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Riverside Fire Station, Riverside, WA

FINAL

Michele opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Attendees Present: Dick Anderson, Karen Averitt, Mike Carney, Brian Farmer, Russ Fletcher, John Harkness, Bill Harmon, Darrell Johnson, Tammera L. Kirk, Rob Lindsay, Mike Lithgow, Dan Peterson, Beverly Rowley, Howard H. Rowley, Carolyn Russell, Kitty Russell, Jaime Short, Jill Short, Luke Short, Mary Sterling, Jeff Storms, Sally Storms, Greg Sweeney, Michele Vazquez, Kathleen Werr, Tom Wimpy, Pam Zarko,

Introductions were made as new people were present.

Agenda was reviewed with emphasis placed on reviewing mission statement, operating procedures and time provided for public comment and feedback.

As there were hard issues to discuss, Michele reminded everyone of the ground rules. Treat others with respect and courtesy, be brief and concise, raise your hand, remain on topic, no personal/organizational attacks, be solution oriented.

Meeting summaries provided for last two meetings. It was noted that the December minutes were taken by hand while January's were recorded. November minutes have been corrected to reflect that 3rd line from bottom that refers to misspellings was struck.

Michele suggested that January's minutes clarify exacting what items group agreed to take off the list, first page, second set of bullets. This section will be reviewed
Consensus was reached to approve December and January minutes with noted changes.

Carolyn Russell asked that a copy of the taped monthly minutes be sent to her. Russ asked if anyone else would like to receive a copy. There were no others needed.

Russ presented a history of the grant and its parameters:
Around December of 2005 a discussion regarding reduction of flooding on Sacheen Lake and the beaver problem on the West Branch of the Little Spokane, outside of Sacheen Lake was initiated.

This discussion led to meeting with the POC commissioners, a meeting at which Senator Morton was in attendance. The commissioners asked Senator Morton who should take control of this issue and he stated Pend Oreille Conservation District. Senator Morton suggested that POCD write a request for capital funding and to look at the bigger picture.

Russ worked with Keith Holiday to write up the request and include the entire watershed. A \$4.9 million dollar request was presented. \$75,000 was approved with the understanding that part of the funds be used to address the beaver problem and the remaining funds be used to develop issues with regards to the bigger picture. This is how the group got funded.

POCD talked to Rob Lindsay of WRIA 55/57 to ask for suggestions on how to proceed. Suggestions were made to encourage the group to look at issues that affect not only individuals but all lakes and their tributaries, and then to make recommendations to solve issues brought forth and to identify funding sources if found.

The WRIA 55/57 group is currently working on a detailed watershed implementation plan. Their draft will be completed by September or October of 2007 and their completion deadline date is December 31, 2007. WRIA encouraged POCD to convene a group and start the process of identifying relevant issues.

A steering committee was formed under the joint auspices of the West Branch of the Little Spokane River and the POCD to draft a mission statement and operating procedures among other activities. Two public meetings were held on September 24 and 26, 2006 with over 5700 invitations going out. Announcements were also published in newspapers. Senator Morton felt using a local entity would be more comfortable for local land and property owners than working with a state agency.

In the grant received, \$45,000 of the \$75,000 was set aside for facilitation. Russ has received a letter from Senator Morton stating that he has proposed an allocation of \$75,000 for the next 2 years to be used for facilitation of the local work group and implementation. \$15,000 of the original grant funds of \$75,000 were used to address the beaver problem on the West Branch of the Little Spokane.

Russ stated that Senator Morton's intent is to utilize the funds towards flooding within the West Branch of Little Spokane River Watershed. Senator Morton is clear that he sees the funds being used towards flooding issues throughout the watershed for all the previously identified lakes.

Someone queried about project deadlines. Russ stated that most deadlines in the grant are target dates. This grant expires August 31, 2007, but the group can apply for an extension and should apply in June and July. It was also stated that if the group needs technical clarification, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will be available.

The question was raised, has the State Attorney General's office given an opinion on private ownership? Brian Farmer from Ecology stated that there had been no follow up by Tom Metzger from Pend Oreille County. Kitty Russell said she had contacted the state attorney general's office and that they are waiting for a formal request.

Jeff Storms asked if the requested \$4.9 million included the confluence of the West Branch of the Little Spokane River Watershed and Russ answered, yes.

The facilitator hiring status was shared with the group. 3 interviews will be conducted Thursday, March 22nd starting at 9:00 at the district office. Kitty Russell questioned the hiring procedure and Russ shared RCW information. Brian Farmer, Ecology representative, stated that Ecology is satisfied with the competitive process that POCD went through to solicit requests for qualifications. The process that Ecology requires has been followed.

Kitty Russell read the RCW statute and asked for quarterly reports. Michelle responded that Jaime Short had quarterly reports available.

Consensus was reached on the mission statement which states: *"The mission of the West Branch LSR Watershed Committee is to form a respectful and productive relationship amongst committee members and governmental entities with jurisdiction in the West Branch of the Little Spokane River Watershed. This collaborative effort will work to: address water resource issues, secure funding for future planning and implementing of agreed upon solutions, and incorporating responsible stewardship and best management practices."*

Review of draft operating procedures: Group reviewed the participant eligibility statement (bottom of page 2, January minutes) which states: *"after an individual attends 3 consecutive meetings, shows interest in the watershed and supports the mission they may request committee membership."* Consensus was reached to accept this statement.

John Harkness suggested that a statement be placed permanently in the monthly agenda that asks, *"is there anyone requesting membership at this time?"* Consensus reached on this statement.

Kitty Russell shared that at the November 2006 meeting 22 people were grandfathered in plus Russ and Michele. This information is located in the operating procedures.

Corrections to the draft operating procedures were noted as:

- Page 2, under quorum, second line, take out the word "outing"
- Page 1, under committee membership, correct spelling of "their"
- Page 1, item 4 – membership removals: noticed to be provided by POCD and the word "consecutive" added behind the word second.

The group began discussing "designated member alternates". At this point the recorder batteries died and backups were not found. Additional notes were not available.