

## **WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE**

### Meeting Summary

March 24, 2008

Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Rd., Riverside, WA

### ***FINAL***

Bryony Stasney (facilitator) opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Attendees Present:** Bill Harmon (alternate for Mary Harmon), Mike Carney (alternate for Burt Covert and Dean Fanara), Greg Sweeney, Tammy Magnuson, John Harkness, Dan Peterson, Brian Farmer, Darrell Johnson, Mary Sterling, Kathleen Werr, Jill Short (alternate for Jim Wood and Max Smith), Luke Short (alternate for Pat Wood), Tom Wimpy, Karen Averitt (alternate for Linda Cannon), Mike Lithgow, Pam Zarko, Diane Wear, Dick Anderson (alternate for Howard Rowley and Bev Rowley), Lynne Anderson (alternate for Josh Roath, Sandy Roath and Tammy Kirk), Jim Peterson, Dale Smith, Sheila Pearman (Sacheen Lake Sewer District).

**Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. Bryony asked everyone to sign-in to the meeting and to check and edit the information on the sign-in sheet. Bryony introduced herself as the Committee's facilitator. Bryony's contact information is: Bryony Stasney, [bstasney@golder.com](mailto:bstasney@golder.com), 208-676-9933 (office) and 208-755-1010 (cell).

### **Public Comment:**

- Diane Wear confirmed that the Pend Oreille Conservation District is working with an interim District Manager and has not yet advertised for a new District Manager. Andrew Huddleston is assigned to the West Branch of the Little Spokane River Committee.
- John Harkness said that the March 20 Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update meeting lasted one hour. Pend Oreille County handed the group a packet of information to review prior to the next meeting on April 17 at 7 pm at the Cusick Community center.
- Tom Wimpy said that he would obtain a packet of information and attend the next meeting on behalf of the WB LSR Committee. Diane Wear said she could act as an alternate for Tom. Mike said that it would be appropriate for the WB LSR Committee to be represented on the Steering Committee for the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update.
- Mike said that Howard is still trying to find contact information for the Buck creek property owner.

### **Baskets of Environmentally Friendly Household and Lawn Products**

Mary Sterling showed the Committee the prototype for the baskets and products she had selected. These baskets and products will be provided to the WB LSR lake associations and districts and given away at their meetings in a drawing. The goal is to provide products that are environmentally friendly and phosphorus free (e.g., dish washing soap, dishwasher and laundry detergent, household cleaning products,

chlorine-free bleach, fertilizer etc.) and also gain an opportunity to educate those attending the meetings when the baskets are presented.

Bryony noted that use of environmentally friendly products is especially important for those on septic tanks that are located close to lakes and streams. Mary reminded the Committee of Ken Merrill's presentation to the Committee in February 2008. Ken had encouraged the Committee to make changes to environmentally friendly products voluntarily. Mary noted that she learned that lawns only need phosphorus during the first year.

Mary noted that all the products shown came to about \$100. Mary suggested that the baskets to contain about \$50 of product and also a book or handout to explain why it is important to use these types of products. Brian Farmer (Ecology) said he would check to see if Ecology has some literature and pledges that could be included in the baskets. Tom noted that Liberty Lake may have produced a pledge book that Ecology helped with. Dan Peterson said that he would include some energy efficient light bulbs on behalf of Avista.

Mary said she would confirm the total budget with Andy. Lake associations and districts in the WB LSR watershed include: Diamond Lake Assoc., Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District, Sacheen Lake Sewer District, Sacheen Lake Betterment Association, Save Our Sacheen, Eloika Lake Assoc., Horseshoe, Y at Fan Lake and POCD. These meetings will need to be public meetings. Greg said that he would contact the Y at Fan Lake people.

### **February 25, 2008 Meeting Summary Review**

The following corrections were discussed and agreed to by the Committee. The final meeting summary will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

- Page 1, Pam Zarko noted that she did not attend the February 25 meeting and that Jill Short was her alternate.
- Page 3, second to last question, Diane suggested that the word "Northeast" be added in front of "Tri-County Health".
- Page 5, third paragraph, the paragraph after the second sentence will be revised to read: "Daryl noted that by October 23, 2007 the screens on the tubes were blocked and that the water level in the stream was about 12 inches over the inlet of the tubes. Daryl removed the screens a few days ago and observed an increase in stream flow. Daryl said that he took a flow measurement before and after he removed the screens. Prior to removing the screens, the flow was 10.86 cfs on Saturday February 23, 2008 at the barrier dam. About two hours after removing the screens from both tubes, the flow was 17.78 cfs at the barrier dam on Sunday February 24, 2008."

**View DVD entitled, “Co-Existing with Beavers”**

The Committee viewed “Co-existing with Beavers” which was developed by the organization Beavers, Wetlands and Wildlife ([www.beaversww.org](http://www.beaversww.org)). The DVD included programs on beavers and wetland habitats and installation of flexible beaver pond levelers. Following the programs the WB LSR Committee discussed installation of beaver pond levelers at Sacheen Lake.

- Luke noted that Jeff said that the leveler concept has been tried in the past and did not work but he was not sure if the installation was exactly as shown in the DVD. Luke said that the elevation difference at Sacheen Lake may make this type of installation challenging.
- Sheila said that there are already 2-foot tubes through the dams so to try this concept the installation would only need to include additional flexible tube (with drilled holes to release air) attached to the existing 2-foot tubes on either side of the dam, a cage on the upstream side and weights (e.g., concrete blocks) on the downstream side to ensure that the pipe does not float.
- Luke agreed that this concept might work and would be quiet.
- Those present agreed that the elbows on the existing upstream pipes could be removed, additional flexible pipe added and a cage used to control the elevation of the inlet pipe below the water surface and debris coming into the pipe. The inlet of the upstream pipe would need to be surveyed in so that the water level in the lake does not fall below an interim elevation that this Committee agrees to for this installation.
- The Committee agreed to use an interim Sacheen Lake elevation of 8.3 for this project.
- Daryl suggested using 4-gauge galvanized cattle fencing for the upstream cage. The cage could be stabilized with rebar.
- The Committee confirmed that the grand dam (a.k.a. the monster dam) does not impact the Sacheen Lake level (per the 1989 WDFW and 2006 Pend Oreille County surveys).

**Update from WRIA 55/57:**

Greg Sweeney noted that the WRIA 55/57 group is working on an 11-page action plan for 2008. In this action plan there are 20+ actions that relate to recommendations put forward by the WB LSR Committee.

Greg noted that the following grant funds have been assigned to projects that will be implemented this year:

- \$225,000 for investigation of water storage at Saltese Flats.
- \$150,000 for wetlands restoration, including about \$30,000 to be focused on the WB LSR watershed.

Greg Sweeney and Tom Wimpy have volunteered to be on the consultant selection committee for WRIA 55/57.

Andy will update the WB LSR Committee in April on communications with Dave Burdick regarding continued funding for facilitation (with a target for facilitation only for another 6 months). The Committee will consider options for an organized structure to continue planning and implementation. Options for consideration include Interlocal Cooperation (per the Interlocal Cooperation Act) and non-profit status.

**Project Priorities for 2008:**

Bryony worked with those present to develop preliminary scopes for the priority projects, including:

- Beaver deceivers and levelers;
- Bank stabilization and revegetation demonstration sites;
- Diamond Lake stream gaging; and
- Sediment removal from the WB Little Spokane River below Sacheen Lake.

The Committee agreed that Bryony should complete the preliminary scopes as much as possible for review, modification and agreement at the April 28, 2008 WB LSR Committee meeting.

**Beaver Deceivers and Levelers**

**Scope** – Installation of deceivers and additional tubing at existing tubes through dam nos. 1, 2 and 3. Installation of deceivers will occur on upstream side of the dams and additional flexible tubing (with drilled holes) may be added to the existing tubes on upstream and downstream side of the dams. Monitoring and maintenance will occur after the installations and modifications made to the installations as needed. The Committee agreed to use an interim elevation of 8.3 as the target water level elevation for Sacheen Lake for this project. The following steps summarize the scope:

1. Initial site visit by Pend Oreille County, POCD, downstream landowners and Sacheen Lake Sewer District.
2. Establishment of survey benchmarks at dam nos. 1, 2 and 3 by Pend Oreille County staff.
3. Confirm design and materials for installations.
4. Submit drawings and description of proposed changes to existing tubes to Jeff Lawlor (WDFW).
5. Install deceivers and additional flexible piping first at dam no. 3, then at dam no. 2, then at dam no. 1 (i.e., complete installations in an upstream direction).
6. Monitor Sacheen lake level at the lake level gage and streamflow at the barrier dam prior to the installations and daily for first week following the installations and then weekly.
7. Conduct site visit to inspect the installations daily for first week following the installations and then weekly. Conduct maintenance activities as needed.

**Design** – Hand sketch of installations will be made prior to installations. As-built sketches will be developed for each installation. Design concept will follow drawing of a flexible leveler as developed by Snohomish County Public Works and available on the Beavers, Wetlands and Wildlife web site at: [http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Public Works/SurfaceWaterM](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Public%20Works/SurfaceWaterM)

[anagement/Flexleveler.pdf](#). Inlet pipe will be surveyed to be no lower than elevation 8.3 (as read at the Sacheen Lake level gage).

**Cost Estimate** – The Committee made prelim costs estimates:

- About \$500 for materials per installation (for total of about \$1,500 for materials for three dams).
- About \$1,000 for labor per installation (for total of about \$3,000 for the three dams) **Note that the labor cost estimates will be confirmed at the April 2008 meeting.**
- About \$30/hr for monitoring labor for one year (for total of about 230 hours per year or about \$7,000 for the three dams). **Note that the labor cost estimates will be confirmed at the April 2008 meeting.**
- Sacheen Lake Sewer District to consider covering costs for maintenance as needed.
- Pend Oreille County to consider covering costs for survey work as needed.
- Technical assistance as needed from Ecology, WDFW and Pend Oreille Conservation District.

**Implemented By** – Sacheen Lake Sewer District (employees and/or contractors). Pend Oreille County to conduct survey work as needed to set benchmarks in the vicinity dam nos. 1, 2 and 3. Technical assistance as needed from Ecology, WDFW and Pend Oreille Conservation District.

**Timeframe** – April through June 2008.

**Funding** – Existing grant for planning / scoping. CTED funds for implementation.

**Permitting / Agreements** – The existing HPA will cover modifications to the existing pipes. If work involves adding new tubes through the dams or at new dams, a new permit will be required by WDFW. **Will need downstream landowner access agreements.**

**Committee Approval** – Committee will review, modify and confirm at the April 28, 2008 Committee meeting. Committee could also consider leveler at the Diamond Lake inlet (see Diamond Lake assessment on page 6).

### **Bank Stabilization and Revegetation**

**Scope** – Identification of stream / lake bank sites that are affected by flooding / elevated water levels related to beaver activity. Design and implementation of bank stabilization and revegetation at these sites. Establishment of these sites as demonstration projects. The following steps summarize the scope:

1. Confirmation of potential sites at the April 28, 2007 WB LSR Committee meeting.
2. Initial site visit by POCD and Golder staff to potential sites. Confirmation and ranking of sites for consideration at May 2008 WB LSR Committee meeting.
3. Development of design concepts for 2 – 3 sites.

4. Permitting.
5. Bid specifications and contractor selection.
6. Implementation (summer 2009).
7. Monitoring and maintenance through 2011.

**Design** – Site specific.

**Cost Estimate** – The Committee made prelim costs estimates:

- About \$75-125 / foot installed (not including monitoring and maintenance).

**Implemented By** – Golder Assoc. design engineer, POCD for technical assistance, local contractor for implementation, WB LSR Committee for monitoring and maintenance.

**Timeframe** – April 2008 through December 2011 (with installations in summer 2009).

**Funding** – Existing grant for initial site visit and planning / scoping. CTED funds for implementation. Seek additional funding such as 2009 Terry Hussman.

**Permitting / Agreements** – HPAs and landowner agreements for each site.

**Committee Approval** – Committee will review, modify and confirm this scope at the April 28, 2008 Committee meeting. Committee will develop list of potential sites at the April 28, 2008 Committee meeting for POCD and Golder to visit. Committee agreed that the sites could include sites that are not related to beaver mitigation – since these sites could be considered and alternative funding (e.g., Terry Hussman) sought.

#### **Diamond Lake Assessment and Inflow and Outflow Gaging**

**Scope** – Site visit and assessment, gaging plan, implement gaging plan. The objective is to understand if beaver activities at the inlet of Diamond Lake are resulting in water bypassing Diamond Lake and flowing into Sacheen Lake and to install an engineering solution, such as levelers, if appropriate. The following steps summarize the scope:

1. Site visit and information assessment.
2. Develop gaging plan (if site visit and assessment support gaging).
3. Implement gaging (including data assessment and conclusions).
4. Consider levelers.

**Design** – Site specific and based on results of site visit and assessment.

**Cost Estimate** – Prelim costs estimates provided by Spokane County Conservation District to Committee:

- About \$10,000 – 15,000 for site visit, gaging (seepage runs), assessment and conclusions.

**Implemented By** – Spokane County Conservation District and WB LSR Committee.

**Timeframe** – Site visit in May / June 2008. Project schedule developed after initial site visit.

**Funding** – Existing grant for initial site visit and planning / scoping. CTED funds for implementation. Seek additional funding.

**Permitting / Agreements** – Landowner agreements for initial site visit and any gage installation sites.

**Committee Approval** – Committee will review, modify and confirm at the April 28, 2008 Committee meeting.

**Sediment Removal from WB LSR Channel below Sacheen Lake**

**Scope** – Site visit and assessment, removal plan, permitting, implementation, monitoring.

**Note:** *This scope will be further developed at the April 28 Committee meeting.*

**Public Comment:**

- The next Pend Oreille County SMP update meeting is on Thursday April 17 at 7 pm at the Cusick Community center.
- Karen Averitt provided a letter to Jeff Storms for signature by the Committee.

**Membership:**

The Committee made no membership changes. The Committee will address membership changes at the April meeting.

**Next Meeting (agenda, tasks and announcements):**

The next Committee meeting will be at the Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Road, Riverside, WA at **6 – 8:30 pm** on Monday April 28, 2008. Bryony will bring coffee for the next meeting. The meeting will include:

- Continued work on prioritization of implementation projects and the draft action table.

The May meeting will be at the Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Road, Riverside, WA at 6 – 8:30 pm on **Monday May 19, 2008.**

Additional ideas for workshops / educational presentations:

- Work Plans and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).
- Hydrology of the WB LSR watershed by the Spokane County Conservation District (based on review of the gaging completed to date by the Spokane County Conservation District).
- DNR presentation on forest practice regulations and lake sediment studies.
- Ecology / Spokane County Conservation District presentation on WB LSR water quality impairment and TMDLs.

- WDFW on WB LSR wildlife habitats and Corridors (contact Jeff Lawlor / Steve Zender)

**Adjourn:**

- Bryony adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.
- Digital recording files for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD. Digital recording files of this meeting are:
  - WBLSR Committee 032408.wav