

WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

June 23, 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: Mike Helland (alternate for Greg Sweeney), Mike Carney (alternate for Bill Harmon, Mary Harmon and Dean Fanara), Burt Covert, Darrell Johnson, Mary Sterling (alternate for Kathleen Werr), Jim Wood, Pat Wood, Luke Short, Jill Short (alternate for Max Smith), Linda Cannon, Karen Averitt, Mike Lithgow (Pend Oreille County), John Harkness, Richard Stafford, Bonnie Stafford, Pam Zarko, Bev Rowley (alternate for Tammy Kirk, Sandra Roath and Josh Roath), Howard Rowley (alternate for Dick Anderson and Lynne Anderson), Andrew Huddleston (POCD), Debbie Kanyer (alternate for Mike Kanyer), Ron Schmidt (Sacheen Lake Sewer District), Sheila Pearman (Sacheen Lake Sewer District), Jaime Short (Ecology), Reanette Boese (Spokane County), Rob Lindsay (Spokane County), Richard Allinger (PBS&J).

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, 208-676-9933 (office) and 208-755-1010 (cell).

Public Comment:

- Gage at the Sacheen Lake bridge is reading 8.7 today.
- Jim and Pat Woods noted that this is the first year in a couple of years that they have some beach in front of their property.
- Daryl noted that the tubes at beaver dam nos. 2 and 3 are passing a lot of water. Daryl noted that he has installed a deceiver at dam no. 3 and that this is helping to stop the tube getting blocked with debris. Daryl noted that the beavers have not been active so far this year, maybe because the dams have not been disturbed.
- Rob Lindsay introduced Richard Allinger (of consulting firm PBS&J). PBS&J has been awarded the contract to evaluate water storage sites in the Little Spokane River watershed (WRIA 55). \$30,000 of the project funds are allocated by the WRIA 55/57 WIT for identification and assessment of water storage and wetland restoration opportunities in the WB LSR watershed. Richard will plan to attend either the August or September 2008 WB LSR Committee meeting to work with the Committee to obtain water storage / wetland restoration ideas.

Membership:

- The Committee accepted the Sacheen Sewer District as a Committee member (with Ron Schmidt and Sheila Pearman as representatives).
- Bonnie and Richard Stafford will be eligible for membership at the next meeting.

- Luke Short confirmed that Jeff Storms no longer wishes to be a Committee member.
- Mike Carney said that he would contact Dean Fanara to see if he wishes to continue as a Committee member.

May 19, 2008 Meeting Summary Review

The Committee accepted the draft May 19, 2008 meeting summary with no changes. The final meeting summary will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

Presentation on Bank Stabilization by Andrew Huddleston of the Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD).

Andy noted that this presentation is based on slides prepared by Dale Miller and Sandy Durand and slides prepared for Pend Oreille River bank stabilization. The POCD currently has grant funds to provide 75% cost share for the use of native plants as a component of bank restoration projects. In addition, the POCD provides site visits and technical assistance free of charge. The following is a summary of the presentation. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

Common concerns:

- Desire to have house near water, to see and have access to water
- Desire to keep the water from eroding the bank and house.

Vegetation and Bank Stabilization:

- Intercepts precipitation; slowing runoff, sediment & soil compaction
- Stems & vegetation buffer wave action
- Reduces soil moisture levels by transpiration
- Increases resistance to erosion by creating a mat-like buffer of dense, interlocking deep & fibrous roots
- Provides cohesive structure, reinforcement to soil mass along slope
- Helps keep soil porous to reduce saturation load

Never disturb a site unnecessarily ... the less it is disturbed, the easier it will be to restore and stabilize.

Function of Vegetation:

- Wildlife Habitat Value (e.g., food, cover, nesting & brooding)
- Stabilization/Erosion Control
- Floodwater Storage
- Filter Pollutants
- Aesthetic Value
- Privacy
- Ethnobotany - cultural uses

Causes of Bank Erosion:

- Vegetation Disturbance and Removal
- Wave Action
- Rapid Drawdown
- Increased Subsurface Seepage
- High Flow
- Freeze-Thaw Cycles
- Surface Ice

Conduct site assessment to determine cause of erosion and design an appropriate solution.

Considering a solution:

- Risk and Cost
- Design Criteria
 - Bench dimensions, stone size and height, erosion control fabric, plants
- Habitat Impacts
 - Construction activity impacts
 - Direct loss of habitat
 - Increased risk from perceived protection

Plant materials:

- Hardwood Cuttings
 - i.e., Willow species, Black Cottonwood, Red-osier Dogwood
 - Dormant Leafless Stem Cuttings (cut preferably in early spring)
- Rooted Woody Vegetation
 - i.e., Black Hawthorn, Common Snowberry, Kinnikinnick
 - Plugs, Container & Bare Root
- Herbaceous Vegetation
 - i.e. Rushes, Sedges, Grasses & Perennial Wildflowers
 - Seed, Plugs & Container

Vegetation Summary:

- Do Not Disturb Site Unnecessarily
- Take a Vegetation Inventory
- Prepare Project Plan/Schedule
- Select Appropriate Species/Planting Location
- Provide Root & Species Diversity
- Plant a Multi-layered Vegetative Canopy
- Properly Install and Care for Plants
- Monitor

Andy provided an overview of a number of bank stabilization techniques (see web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp> for details):

Technique 1: No stabilization action with monitoring

Technique 2: Vegetation establishment

Technique 3: Toe armoring without bank slope reduction

Technique 4: Low Bench (with and without bank slope reduction)

Technique 5: Bioengineered upper bank stabilization

Additional Considerations:

- Docks
- Stairs to shoreline

Permit Requirements:

Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA)

- Hydraulic Permit Approval (HPA) - Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Shoreline Master Plan - Pend Oreille County
- Section 404 of Clean Water Act - US Army Corps of Engineers

Presentation and Ranking of Tier 2 Sacheen Lake sites for consideration for bank stabilization / restoration demonstration projects (Bryony Stasney, Golder Associates and Andrew Huddleston, Pend Oreille Conservation District)

Bryony reminded the Committee that bank restoration demonstration sites are one of the priority projects for implementation with the 2008-2011 funding (administered by CTED). This funding must be applied to beaver mitigation projects. The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) may also have cost share available for native planting (as a component of a bank restoration strategy).

Golder and POCD staff visited additional sites along Sacheen Lake in June 2008 in response to a request from the Sacheen Betterment Association. The lake level was 9.15 at the Beyersdorf gage the day of the June visits. The sites visited in June 2008 are the Tier 2 sites. The sites visited in May 2008 are the Tier 1 sites. The following is a summary of the presentation. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

Sacheen Lake Shoreline Erosional Processes and Stabilization:

- Lake level higher since beaver dams no longer removed
- Shoreline adapting to high levels
- Wind & boat wake exacerbates erosion
- Stabilize shoreline sites considering higher water
- Manage lake levels with levelers (tubes) & deceivers

Sacheen Lake Shoreline Sites Visited in June 2008:

- Dorothy & Gary Beyersdorf
- Terri Harworth & Rich Gilmore
- Bonnie and Richard Stafford
- Carl Chamberlin
- Meg & Wes Swimelar
- Peggy and Jerry Johnson

- Mike Fundahn
- Sheila Pearman

Dorothy & Gary Beyersdorf:

- Water higher in last 10 yrs since beaver dams not removed.
- 20 feet of beach submerged.
- Water undermining concrete platform.
- Do not want lake shore hidden.
- Want safe slope access to the lake.
- Want to keep the landscape block walls.
- OK to restore native vegetation on the north side. Not OK on the south side.

Terri Harworth & Rich Gilmore:

- High water undercutting shoreline.
- Homeowners feel that wake moratorium would be good.
- 16 inches of ice this year.
- Wants to augment native plantings to minimize undercutting.

Bonnie and Richard Stafford:

- Concerned that lower wall being undermined.
- Home since 2003. Highest water in 2008.
- OK with native plantings.
- Discussed concept of removing rock at the shoreline, placing filter fabric (to stop fines being washed out) and replacing rocks with a shallower slope.

Carl Chamberlin:

- Pump house submerged.
- Approx. 3 ft high bank.
- Undermining in the vicinity of the dock.
- Owner wants small access to the lake with no vegetative barrier to north of dock.
- OK with native plantings as component of restoration.

Meg & Wes Swimelar:

- Wall of ecology blocks (faced with wood).
- Rocks and iris along shoreline. Some soil erosion. Looks OK.
- Boat house wall collapsed.
- Remove boat house and restore this section of the bank.
- Called – OK with native plantings.

Peggy and Jerry Johnson:

- About two feet of shoreline lost on south side of large rock – would like to consider restoration in this area.
- Tree roots (south end) exposed.
- Shrub roots along remainder of shoreline now in the water.
- Called – OK with native plantings.

Mike Fundahn:

- Eroding lawn down to the water.
- Owner not present. Called – OK with native plantings.

Sheila Pearman:

- Approx. 4 ft high bank. Undermining in some areas.
- Owner wants small access to the lake with no vegetative barrier.
- OK with native plantings as component of restoration.

Ranking:

- Committee completed Tier 2 ranking sheets at June 23, 2008 meeting.
- Funding not currently available to address Tier 2 sites.
- Committee will help homeowners by looking for funding opportunities.
- Committee will consider homeowner match as way to stretch existing funds.

The Committee ranked the Tier 2 sites at the meeting using the ranking criteria agreed to at the May 2008 WB LSR Committee meeting:

- Are buildings threatened?
- Are large trees / native shrubs threatened?
- Opportunity to restore to native vegetative state?
- Landowners OK with using the project as a demonstration site?
- Is the site suitable for a demonstration site?
- Opportunity for water quality improvement (sediment & nutrients)?

Ranking Results:

Tier 1

1. Sargent
2. Woods
3. Zarko
4. Short / Perry
5. Storms / Morris

Tier 2

1. Stafford
2. Pearman
3. Chamberlin
4. Fundahn
5. Beyersdorf
6. Swimelar
7. Johnson
8. Harworth

CTED Grant Applications:

Bryony notified the group that the Committee (via the POCD) will be sending in grant applications to CTED for the three beaver mitigation projects listed below. Bryony provided copies of the draft grant applications and cost estimates and reviewed the applications with the Committee.

1. Deceivers and levelers for beaver dams:

- Daryl installed a deceiver at dam no. 3 and is observing. The deceiver is working well to stop debris blocking the tube. Daryl plans to complete the installation with a top screen mesh once the flows and debris reduce.
- Daryl will install a deceiver at dam no. 2 when the flows reduce a little.

2. Bank restoration demonstration sites at Sacheen Lake (Tier 1 sites):

- After discussion, the Committee agreed to consider cost share opportunities with landowners for the bank restoration and demonstration sites on a site specific basis for sites that have total costs above \$1,000.
- Committee agreed to cover costs for sites with total costs at or below \$1,000.

3. Cross sectional surveys and water level measurements of WBLSR between Sacheen Lake and Harworth Road.

- Golder staff considered whether or not a hydraulic model would be appropriate to manage the WB LSR between Sacheen Lake and Harworth Road. Due to the complexity of the river system along this reach, a hydraulic model is not recommended. Understanding of flows and elevations behind beaver dams would provide good information to support management decisions.
- Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD) collects water level data at Harworth Road and the bridge at Sacheen Lake (with funding available from the WRIA 55/57 WIT for about 2 years).
- The WB LSR project will involve installation of about 5 transducers / data loggers (which will be provided by the POCD for this project) to measure water levels and estimate flows (if possible). This information will be used to support management decisions / activities to improve water flow through this part of the system (e.g. siting of additional beaver tubes). Likely locations for the transducer / datalogger installations would include (depending on available funding):
 - Pool above beaver dam no. 1
 - Pool above beaver dam no. 2
 - Pool above beaver dam no. 3
 - Moon Creek inflow to Sacheen Lake
 - Sacheen Lake outflow (if SCCD transducer information cannot be used)
- Committee (through the POCD) will apply for additional funding (e.g., CRM) to support monitoring and maintenance of the data loggers.
- Silver City and Dan Riener own the property on either side of dam no. 1.
- Mary Sterling and Darrell Johnson own the property on one side of dam no. 3 and the start up dams below dam no. 3. Silver City owns the property on the other side of dam no. 3 and the start up dams below dam no. 3. Silver City owns the property on one side of dam no. 2 and Jim Hance owns the property on the

other side of dam no. 2. Silver City owns the property on one side of dam no. 1 and Dan Reiner owns the property on the other side of dam no. 1.

- Mary and Darrell said that they were OK with installation of the transducers / dataloggers at their property.
- Installation and monitoring work would be conducted by POCD staff.

Public Comment:

- John Harkness provided a copy of a book for review called, "Critters of the Little Spokane River". This book is available through the Lands Council.
- Spokane and Pend Oreille County GIS are working on parcel mapping for the West Branch of the Little Spokane River watershed (with funds from the WRIA 55/57 WIT and the Shoreline Master Program update).
- Rob Lindsay introduced Reanette Boese as the coordinator the WRIA 55/57 watershed planning project. Reanette has been keeping the WB LSR Committee's website up to date.
- Andy thanked Mary for working on the demonstration baskets. The baskets are available from the POCD for the lake associations to show at their meetings.
- Mary asked the lake associations to pick up boxes of energy efficient light bulbs that have been donated by Pend Oreille PUD.
- The next Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program Update meeting is scheduled for July 17 in Cusick at 7 pm.

Next Meeting (agenda, tasks and announcements):

The Committee agreed not to have a meeting in July. 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 August 25, 2008**. Bryony will bring coffee for the next meeting. The meeting will include:

- Presentation by Richard Allinger of PBS&J (assuming that the project is at the appropriate stage) and discussion with the Committee on possible water storage options within the West Branch Little Spokane River watershed.
- Possible presentation on Little Spokane River TMDLs.
- Continued work on the draft watershed action plan.

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).
- Ecology (Jon Jones) / 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 8:35 pm. Digital recording file (WBLSR Committee 062308.wav) for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD.