

WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary
September 24, 2007

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: Burt Covert (alternate for Bill Harmon), Dolores Storms, Dan Peterson, Gil McGee, Greg Sweeney, Dick Anderson (alternate for Lynne Anderson), Jeff Storms, Sally Storms, Jill Short (alternate for Jim Wood), Luke Short, Jim Peterson, John Harkness, Karen Averitt, Linda Cannon, Mary Sterling (alternate for Kathleen Werr and Darrell Johnson), Diane Wear (alternate for POCD), Mike Carney, Mike Lithgow, Pam Zarko, Rick Noll, Rob Lindsay, Max Smith, Pat Wood, Sandra Roath (alternate for Bev Rowley and Tammera Kirk), Josh Roath (alternate for Howard Rowley), Brian Farmer (alternate for Jaime Short), Mike Kanyer, Debbie Kanyer.

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).

Agenda Review: Bryony noted that a second public comment agenda item will occur prior to the membership discussion.

July 23rd 2007 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>.

- Dolores Storms' name is misspelled. Correct spelling is Dolores.
- Linda Cannon asked that her attendance be checked since she recalls that she attended the meeting.
- Dan Peterson asked that a last name be included after the name Dan to clarify if it is Dan Ross or Dan Peterson speaking.
- Dan Peterson noted that his comment regarding the intent of the funding for the Committee is not noted. John Harkness and Bryony noted that Dan Peterson made this comment in August and the comment will be noted in the appropriate August meeting summary.
- Page 4, second bullet under Horseshoe Lake, the last sentence will be changed to, "Mr. Reiner was identified as a landowner on Trout Lake to contact to ask if he would be interested in having a streamflow gage on his property".

Public Comment:

- Karen Averitt noted that the Sacheen Betterment Association will be hosting an informational meeting this Thursday 7 pm, September 27, at Riverside High School to discuss the options for a professional lake manager for Sacheen Lake. This question will be on the November 2007 ballot for the Sacheen Lake Sewer District.
- Pam asked if the extension to the current grant has been confirmed by Ecology. Diane confirmed that the POCD received a letter of award extending the current grant to December 31, 2007 with a verbal confirmation that this grant can be extended to March 31, 2008 if needed.
- Rob Lindsay noted that the other watershed planning groups that Spokane County is involved with have requested that Spokane County provide information on amendments to the Spokane County comprehensive plan and changes to zoning and / or land use density that could have an impact on water resources. Rob informed the Committee of proposed amendment 07-CPA-01 (filed by Spokane Rock Products) to the Spokane County comprehensive plan to support conversion of 40+ acres of rural conservation to mineral land near the intersection of Eloika Lake Road and Highway 2. This development may include additional extraction of groundwater for rock washing / batching concrete. Rob has a copy of the SEPA checklist for anyone interested. Comments on the SEPA for the proposed development can be received at Spokane County until October 5, 2007. Information should be available on the Spokane County web site.
- Dolores Storms informed the group that she will not be able to continue as refreshment chairman after October 8. Bryony said that she could bring coffee for future meetings until someone else can take the position.
- Luke Short asked Bryony to provide a list of members who have not attended the last three to four meetings. Bryony reviewed the sign-in sheet and noted that the following members have not attended (nor had an alternate attend) the last three meetings: Mary Harmon (assuming that Bill is not an alternate), Dale Smith, Dean Fanara, T.K. Fanara, Kitty Russell, Carolyn Russell, Suzanne Ruby, Steve Petroni and Tammy Magnuson. Greg said that he knows a number of these people and that they are reading the summaries and keeping up but do not have time to attend meetings. Mary noted that the Committee's operating procedures require the POCD to call these members to ask them if they are interested in continuing their membership and to notify them that they may be removed from the membership list if they do not attend future meetings. Bryony said that she would provide this list and instruction to call to the POCD. Jeff Storms said that he would like the POCD to encourage these individuals to attend and be members if they can. Luke Short agreed.
- Bryony confirmed that there are no procedures for how many people a member can be an alternate for. It is important that those who do not attend but do have a designated alternate keep in touch with the Committee's activities and with their alternate.

Updates:

Sacheen Sewer District Beaver Tube Replacement Project

Mike Lithgow said that the Pend Oreille County Planning Commission met on September 6, 2007. After 1 ½ hours, the Commissioners decided to table the discussion until the next Planning Commission meeting. The Commissioners wanted to have a chance to go look at the area and to give the proponent more time to gather information that would prove that there would be little impact if they lowered the invert elevation of the tubes by two feet. The next Pend Oreille County Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 4th, in Newport at 7:00pm at the Courthouse in the Commissioners' chambers.

Three field trips are scheduled for the Planning Commission and other interested parties: September 25, September 26 and September 29 at 1 pm. The trips will start at Jeff Storms' house at 8682 Fertile Valley Road (509-447-3706). The County would like to coordinate with the downstream landowners. Mary Sterling confirmed that the downstream landowners would be available on Saturday September 29 but not during the week. Mary said that she would rather people not park on her property since there is little room to accommodate cars.

Jeff said that Pend Oreille County had not received any comment from this group for the project. Bryony said that an email was sent to Mike Lithgow. The email contained information from the Committee's meeting summary noting approval for the project. Mike Lithgow confirmed that this email is included in the record of comments for the project.

Jeff Storms noted that the project will likely be implemented next summer and that the SEPA and JARPA for the project are valid until August 2008. Bryony reminded Jeff that current funding extends until December 2007 and could be extended until March 2008 if a request is made by the POCD to Ecology.

Jeff Storms said that the October 4th meeting should be very interesting and informative. Washington State Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife are planning to send representatives. Jeff encouraged people to attend and comment.

Jim Peterson asked if Jeff Lawlor (Washington State Fish and Wildlife) would be attending the October 4th Planning Commission meeting and if he could address questions on the invert elevation of the tubes and how the Sacheen Lake Sewer District plans to stop flow through the tubes once the elevation of the lake reaches 7.9 feet (as recorded at the Beyers Dorf gage and the Fertile Valley Bridge gage). Jeff Storms said that he did not know if Jeff Lawlor would attend.

Mary said that there should be no obligation for Sacheen Lake Sewer District to lower the lake level to 7.9 feet since Sacheen Lake has no adjudicated lake level and no right to hold water at a lake elevation of 7.9 feet. If Sacheen Lake Sewer District holds water at a lake level of 7.9 feet, Mary noted that at some times there may be no water flowing

out of Sacheen Lake. Brian Farmer (Ecology) confirmed that there is no adjudicated lake level for Sacheen Lake and he does not know which entity or how the lake level agreed to by the Sacheen Lake Sewer District could be enforced.

Jeff Storms asked the Pend Oreille Conservation District to return the Kennedy report to the library. Bryony said that Golder had scanned a series of reports on Sacheen Lake to pdf files and had sent a CD copy of the reports to the Pend Oreille Conservation District in June 2007. Diane said that she would check the Pend Oreille Conservation District office for the Kennedy report. Bryony said that she could burn a CD for Jeff with a copy of the scanned reports.

Grant Administration

Diane Wear confirmed that the Pend Oreille Conservation District has received the 2007-2009 funds from Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED). The grant is for projects implemented within the West Branch of the Little Spokane River over the next two years. The grant will not pay for administration or a facilitator. The Pend Oreille Conservation District plans to request administrative funds from Pend Oreille County. Jeff said that he had talked to CTED and that CTED was willing to do an agency exchange to Ecology. CTED does not plan to attend the WB LSR meetings in the same way that Ecology does. Jeff asked this group to request that the funds be transferred from CTED to Ecology.

Dan Peterson asked if there is a way to build more flexibility into how the current funds can be spent. Brian Farmer said that he will check to see how the funds could be spent if the funds were transferred to Ecology. Brian suggested that the Committee contact Senator Morton and ask if there is a specific reason for the funding to come through CTED. Jeff Storms said that he would contact Senator Morton and ask if the funds can be transferred from CTED to Ecology. Brian Farmer confirmed that Ecology will attend the WB LSR meetings so long as their resources are able to cover this.

Jill asked how this group will continue to fund a facilitator. Bryony said that the Committee will need to find additional grant funding. Potential funding sources include Coordinated Resource Management (CRM). Rob Lindsay noted that the WRIA 55/57 group will be receiving \$125,000 that will be available in January 2008. The WRIA 55/57 group has not decided how these funds will be spent. This Committee could put in a proposal for facilitation funds from the WRIA 55/57 group. Bryony suggested that the WB LSR Committee set up a sub-committee that focuses on finding grant funding and grant writing. The following Committee members volunteered: Jill Short, Jeff Storms, Mike Lithgow and Greg Sweeney. Jill will report back progress at the October 22, 2007 meeting.

Rustler's Gulch

The sale of the land is still in progress. Bryony provided copies of the letter from the WB LSR Committee that was sent to the Governor on August 30, 2007. Rob Lindsay noted that the WRIA 55/57 WIT also sent a similar letter of support for State purchase of the property to the Governor.

WRIA 55/57 DIP

Bryony reviewed the activities since the August WB LSR Committee meeting to incorporate recommended Committee actions into the draft WRIA 55/57 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP):

- WB LSR Committee draft action plan completed at the August 27th meeting.
- Bryony presented recommended WB LSR actions for incorporation into the WRIA 55/57 DIP to the WRIA 55/57 group at their August 29th meeting. Greg Sweeney, Howard Rowley and Rob Lindsay attended the August 29th WRIA 55/57 meeting.
- The WRIA 55/57 group reviewed the WB LSR actions and suggested some wording edits to make the actions consistent with the WRIA 55/57 actions where relevant (and where these edits did not change the intent of the WB LSR action).
- Bryony numbered the WB LSR actions so that these can be referenced in the WRIA 55/57 DIP.
- The WRIA 55/57 group will be incorporating all of the West Branch LSR Committee actions into an appendix to the DIP as well as including accepted actions within the main body of the DIP.
- In summary, the WB LSR actions presented to the WRIA 55/57 group fall into the following five categories:
 1. New actions included within the WRIA 55/57 DIP (some with minor edits).
 2. Revisions to existing WRIA 55/57 actions to add the intent of a similar WB LSR action.
 3. Duplicate actions (that are already listed within the WRIA 55/57 DIP) that are referenced by WB LSR action number.
 4. WB LSR actions that are not relevant to WRIA 55/57 recommendations and are noted as new recommendations for future updates of the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan and DIP. ***The WB LSR Committee will need to write a letter to the WRIA 55/57 group listing these recommendations and requesting that these recommendations be included in future updates of the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan and DIP.***
 5. WB LSR actions that are not included in the WRIA 55/57 DIP since the actions are out of the scope of the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan (e.g., a water quality action) or are specific to the WB LSR Committee.

Bryony noted that the WRIA 55/57 group and their facilitator (Susan Gulick of Sound Resolutions) were very helpful and gracious in taking the time to review and incorporate the actions suggested by the WB LSR Committee.

Jeff noted that the WB LSR actions developed to date are mostly short term and high priority. Jeff said that it seems like it would make more sense to limit the number of actions that are short term and high priority.

Rob Lindsay said that the WRIA 55/57 group did not pay much attention to the timeframe and priority assigned by the WB LSR Committee. Rob agreed that the WRIA

55/57 Plan and DIP have many more actions than can be implemented and plan to prioritize actions as a component of the DIP. Rob noted that the following actions have gained support:

- The comprehensive gaging strategy for the WB LSR; and
- Actions to protect wetlands – that may need to be split into smaller projects.

Rob suggested that this Committee consider presenting a couple of proposals to the WRIA 55/57 group to fund components of these actions.

Bryony passed out the draft WB LSR action table (dated 091707). Bryony reviewed the action table with the Committee and confirmed action wording, potential implementing entities, timeframes for implementation and priority. Bryony will email revisions suggested by the Committee to Susan Gulick (WRIA 55/57 facilitator) in time for the October 3, 2007 deadline for comment to the WRIA 55/57 DIP. Greg Sweeney asked that a copy of the revisions be kept in the files. Bryony will send a hardcopy of the revisions to the POCD for the project files. Action WB.ED1-5 (clarify the Holmon V Griffith ruling) will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Bryony passed copies of the WB LSR water quality issues that were listed by the Committee in April and May 2007 (memo entitled, “*Draft list of West Branch Little Spokane River issues not addressed for the WRIA 55/57 DIP*”). Bryony asked the Committee to review the issues for the October 8, 2007 Committee meeting. Bryony plans to consolidate the issues and work with the Committee in October 2007 to confirm the issues that the Committee would like to address in the WB LSR watershed plan.

Public Comment:

- Jim Peterson noted that there is a one day forestry course for small landowners that will be given by WA DNR and WSU. One of Jim’s staff will attend. Jim will provide the group with an update at the next Committee meeting.

Membership:

Bryony will email a list of members to the POCD for the POCD to call regarding attendance per the operating procedures.

Next Meeting:

The next Committee meetings will be at the Riverside Fire Station, 3818 E. Deer Park – Milan Road, Riverside, WA on:

- **6 – 8 pm** on Monday October 8, 2007
- **6 – 8 pm** on Monday October 22, 2007

Adjourn:

- Bryony adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.
- Digital recording files for this meeting will be mailed to Carolyn Russell and to the POCD. Digital recording files of this meeting are:
 - WBLSR Committee 092407a.wav
 - WBLSR Committee 092407b.wav