

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

### Meeting Summary

October 8, 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:** Dolores Storms, Dale Smith, Greg Sweeney, Dean Fanara, Tammy Magnuson, Howard Rowley, Bev Rowley, Dick Anderson, Lynne Anderson, Jeff Storms, Sally Storms, Jill Short, Luke Short, John Harkness, Karen Averitt (alternate for Linda Cannon), Mike Carney, Pam Zarko, Max Smith, Pat Wood, Jim Wood, Josh Roath, Sandra Roath, Mike Kanyer, Debbie Kanyer, Tammera Kirk, Brian Farmer (alternate for Jaime Short).

**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).

### **September 24, 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>.

- Jim Wood did not attend the meeting and is noted as present. Pat Wood attended and is not noted as present.
- Howard and Bev Rowley did not attend the meeting and are noted as present.
- Page 3, last paragraph, the Sacheen Lake level of 7.9 feet was clarified as 7.9 feet, as measured at the Beyers Dorf and Fertile Valley Bridge lake level gages.
- Page 4, last paragraph under grant administration: 1) the date that the WRIA 55/57 group will receive \$125,000 in implementation funds from Ecology was corrected to January 2008; 2) the last sentence was clarified to note that progress from the funding sub-committee will be reported at the October 22, 2007 WB LSR Committee meeting.

### **Public Comment:**

- Jeff Storms asked if the group will be addressing the Holmon vs. Griffith case at this meeting. Bryony noted that this is included as one of the water quality issues. Depending on progress made at this meeting, the Committee may have time to discuss this tonight.
- Dolores asked if there is a computer model that could simulate what would happen if water is released from Sacheen through the larger beaver tubes. After discussion, the Committee came to the conclusion that a model does not exist that could simulate the flow changes and downstream impacts.

**Updates:**

***Sacheen Sewer District Beaver Tube Replacement Project***

Bryony noted that Mike Lithgow had left her a voice mail to say that the Pend Oreille County Planning Commissioners conditionally approved the beaver tube replacement project at the October 4<sup>th</sup> Pend Oreille County Planning Commission. The Commissioners conditioned the project to approval of a work plan and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) by Ecology and Pend Oreille County Planning and agreed access to the site from the downstream landowners.

Brian Farmer said that Ecology will provide technical assistance to prepare the QAPP for monitoring of the wetland impacts once the larger tubes are installed. Ecology is expecting that monitoring will be required to assess impacts to the wetlands for a period of at least five years after the larger tubes are installed. Any future installations / maintenance will be based on the monitoring results.

Jeff Storms asked if other Committee members would be interested in scheduling a Work Plan / QAPP workshop within the WB LSR Committee meetings. Jeff said that it would be important for Ecology, WDFW, Conservation Districts, County staff and Committee members to attend.

Brian said that he felt it would be important to have someone from Shannon and Wilson explain the wetland delineation project prior to having a Work Plan / QAPP workshop. Brian said that he could ask Ecology's wetlands expert to also attend. This would help to improve the Committee's understanding of the wetland system in the vicinity of Sacheen Lake before working on how to monitor impacts.

Jeff Storms said that one of the shortcomings of the Shannon and Wilson wetland delineation project is that the project did not use any of the previous work or history and therefore did not address water level impacts on the wetland. Brian clarified that a wetland delineation determines the boundaries of a wetland by defining the location of hydric soils and wetland vegetation. The relationship between hydrology and the wetland is a next step. Brian suggested bringing Ken Merrill, the project staff from Shannon and Wilson and WDFW staff to a meeting to discuss the links between hydrology and the wetland.

Jeff Storms noted that the project has a 21-day appeal period. In addition, the Sacheen Lake Sewer District will need to have the project and the requirements reviewed by their attorney to better understand liability.

Sally Storms said that she is frustrated that the issues at Sacheen Lake are not being addressed and that discussion and concern is always about the wetlands. Sally said that she does not want the wetland harmed but she does want the Sacheen Lake issues addressed.

John Harkness noted that the level of Diamond Lake is low and that it is interesting that Sacheen Lake is high.

Jeff Storms said that he would like a hydrologist to do a reconnaissance through the watershed and provide information on the cost of hydrologic study for the lakes, not just Sacheen. Jeff Storms said that Jeff Lawlor (WDFW) would like to see a hydrologic study for Sacheen to support the beaver tube replacement but that the study is not a requirement of the project HPA. Brian said that if WDFW would like a hydrologic study, then WDFW should be involved in scoping the study so that the study meets WDFW's objectives.

The Committee tentatively scoped a hydrologic project for Sacheen as: 1) review available data; 2) identify data gaps; 3) scope project; and, 4) apply for funding. The objective of the study would be recommendations to avoid flooding (e.g., beaver tubes and other activities).

Bryony said that this Committee should communicate with the Spokane County Conservation District to see if watershed reconnaissance will / could be done as a component of the recently funded WB LSR gaging study (see WRIA 55/57 DIP and Project Funding below). Greg asked if the Spokane County Conservation District could give an overview on the gaging completed to date within the WB LSR Committee. Bryony said an action to conduct a hydrologic study for Sacheen and other lakes should be included in the WB LSR action plan. Bryony said that maybe the Spokane County Conservation District could assist the Committee with prioritizing hydrologic studies for the watershed so that these studies could be completed over time to ultimately provide a better understanding of the hydrology of the watershed.

#### ***Grant Administration***

Bryony suggested that the Committee consider extending the timeframe for Golder's contract for facilitation from December 2007 to March 2008 to allow time at meetings for educational presentations. Bryony said that she would discuss this with the Pend Oreille Conservation District prior to the next meeting.

#### ***Rustler's Gulch***

The sale of the land is still in progress. There is no further update.

#### ***WRIA 55/57 DIP and Project Funding***

Rob sent Bryony and Greg an email on September 26, 2007 notifying the WB LSR Committee that Ecology will be funding: 1) operation and maintenance of the WB LSR streamflow gages for two years (\$108,000); and, 2) installation and maintenance of a real time gage at Elk (\$13,000). The Spokane County Conservation District will be the lead entity for the projects. Ecology is considering combining the two projects.

#### **Water Quality Issues (review and consolidate):**

Bryony provided a handout entitled, "*Draft list of West Branch Little Spokane River Issues not Addressed for the WRIA 55/57 DIP*". Bryony worked with the Committee to

review and clarify the issues under the categories of: aquatic weeds, point sources, non-point sources (forest practices, road building & maintenance, agriculture, sewer, shoreline erosion, beaver dams), habitat, education, management / oversight / funding, navigability / public access.

### ***Aquatic Weeds***

Aquatic weeds (particularly milfoil) are an issue at all lakes. Decomposition of weeds can exacerbate / result in low dissolved oxygen levels (e.g., at Eloika Lake).

Potential solutions include:

- Herbicide applications (including concerns associated with the use of herbicides)
- Physical barriers (e.g., tarps to eliminate light to the plants)
- Mechanical removal
- Insects (e.g., milfoil weevil)
- Preventative measures (e.g., boat cleaning, signs and fines)
- Water level control

Potential implementing entities include: Conservation Districts, lake associations and districts, WDFW.

Potential funding sources include: State centennial clean water funds (administered by Ecology), Terry Hussmann fund (for water quality implementation projects up to \$50,000), Counties, Pend Oreille PUD, lake associations and districts

Discussion:

- Committee noted that jet boats and jet skis exacerbate the issue because milfoil can get into the machines and not be seen from the outside.
- Brian noted that the Army Corps of Engineers and Avista have been working on milfoil control in the Pend Oreille River and Lake.
- Bijay (from Liberty Lake) also has good experience with milfoil control.
- Diamond Lake treated 34 acres last year and has an ongoing milfoil control program. Milfoil returned in 2007. Diamond Lake is considering using chemicals as well as physically removing the plants with a vacuum pump.
- Sacheen treated 23 acres last year and uses divers in specific locations.

### ***Point Sources***

Two point sources were identified by the Committee:

1. 40 – 60 acre property (owned by Lundgren?) where people dump cars and car parts. The property is located along Cedar Creek by Buck Creek Road. Committee members are concerned that oils and gasoline are being spilled at this site.
2. Pipe that directs runoff into Sacheen Lake from a Pend Oreille County road (next to Julie Johnson's property). There is no swale.

Potential solutions include:

- Code enforcement by Pend Oreille County.

- Tri-County Health nuisance ordinances.
- Recommend Pend Oreille County Roads Department address direct discharge of road runoff into Sacheen Lake when the road (Fertile Valley Road) is upgraded (planned in 2008/2009 ?). Confirm this with Pend Oreille County.

### ***Non-Point Sources***

Brian noted that some non-point source concerns could potentially be addressed through County Shoreline Master Programs. Bryony noted that there is a TMDL process ongoing for the Little Spokane River and that Spokane County Conservation District is the lead entity for this process. Implementation actions included within TMDL clean up plans could also address some of the WB LSR Committee's non-point source issues.

### ***Non-Point Sources – Forest Practices***

Two concerns were noted:

1. Increased sedimentation resulting from logging too close to surface water; and
2. Debris from past logging activities when lakes were used as float ponds is now decomposing and resulting in low dissolved oxygen.

Potential solutions include:

- Education for small timber landowners (current action WB.G&LU2-1).
- Enforcement of state Forest Practices Act and county Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Ordinances related to timber harvest (current actions WB.G&LU2-4&5).
- Assess feasibility of removing debris from lakes. Note that current action WB.SW2-4 recommends assessing the feasibility of removing debris from Eloika and Sacheen to increase water storage.

Potential implementing entities include: Conservation Districts, Counties and WB LSR Committee.

Potential funding sources: not discussed.

### ***Non-Point Sources – Road Building & Maintenance***

Roads built too close to surface water cause high turbidity runoff to lakes and rivers.

Potential solutions include:

- Study to identify which roads / portions of roads are a concern. Present study results to County roads departments / WDOT.
- Make recommendations to Pend Oreille County Roads to address turbid runoff concern via the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program update.

Potential implementing entities include: Conservation Districts, Counties, WDOT and WB LSR Committee.

Potential funding sources: not discussed.

### ***Non-Point Sources – Agriculture and Lawns***

Two concerns noted:

1. Impacts of livestock having unrestricted use of stream / lake shores; and,
2. Chemicals and waste (fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste) draining into rivers and lakes.

Potential solutions include:

- Conservation Districts to work with landowners to implement best management practices for chemical use (education and implementation).
- Conservation Districts to work with landowners to implement solutions to keep livestock out of streams (education and implementation).
- Recommend set backs for livestock from streams in County Shoreline Master Program updates.
- Recommend minimum buffers from shorelines (within County Shoreline Master Programs) for homeowners / development and require streambank / lakeshore revegetation if these set backs are not met.
- Provide education for homeowners / developers on impacts of removing streambank and lake shore vegetation.
- Provide education for homeowners / developers on use of fertilizers adjacent to rivers and lakes.

Potential implementing entities include: Conservation Districts, Counties and WB LSR Committee.

Potential funding sources:

- Ecology's grant program that pays for fencing to keep livestock out of streams.
- Cost share programs through Conservation Districts.

Discussion:

- Farmers are less likely to use excess fertilizer / herbicides / pesticides than homeowners since farmers have a financial incentive to use chemicals efficiently.
- There is a need to communicate with the Spokane County Conservation District to understand the status of the LSR TMDL.
- Ecology does not have specific regulations related to livestock in streams.
- Chad Atkins is Ecology's staff person that specializes in agriculture and water quality.
- Lawns installed and maintained up to lake shores and streambanks are primary sources of chemicals to streams and lakes.
- The Committee agreed that the issue of animal carcasses does not need to be addressed within the WB LSR Committee action plan.

### ***Non-Point Sources – Sewer***

Three concerns identified:

1. Failing septic systems and lack of sanitary facilities are resulting in loading of nutrients and coliform into lakes and streams.

2. High density septic results in loading of nutrients and coliform into lakes and streams.
3. Flooding has the potential to compromise septic systems.

Potential solutions include:

- Make recommendations to Counties for septic elevations above groundwater / high water, septic setbacks from shorelines and limiting development density for homes served by septic systems via Shoreline Master Program updates.
- Recommend that Tri-County Health address residences that do not have sanitary facilities or have failing septic systems (e.g., requirement for portable toilets).
- Installation of sewer and treatment lagoons (in particular for areas of existing high development density).

Discussion:

- Spokane County has a separation requirement of 10 feet elevation between septic and groundwater with the Spokane County Shorelines Master Program for septic systems that are within 200 feet of high water for a state shoreline. Spokane County is currently deliberating this requirement. This requirement is stricter than the Spokane County health department requirement.
- Diamond elected and paid for sewer 20 to 30 years ago when significant grant funds were available.
- There may be funding available through implementation of the Spokane River dissolved oxygen TMDL.
- Brian said that he could ask Ecology's TMDL lead to talk to the Committee.
- Spokane County has received funding for a non-point study to assess phosphorus loads to the Spokane River from the Spokane River basin (which includes the WB LSR watershed).
- WB LSR is listed for fecal coliform and phosphorus. The TMDL assessments are currently underway.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Membership:**

The Pend Oreille Conservation District called those Committee members who have not attended (or had an alternate attend) three or more consecutive meetings. As of 100807 results of the calls are:

- Mary Harmon - left message.
- Dale Smith - will attend 10/8.
- Dean Fanara (alternate for Tju Tju Fanara) - will attend 10/8.
- Kitty Russell - left message, is out of town.
- Carolyn Russell - will not attend anymore and does not want information mailed / emailed.
- Suzanne Ruby – will not attend as voting member but would like to continue receiving emails.
- Steve Petroni - left message.

- Tammy Magnuson - will attend 10/8.

Tammy said that she would like to receive emails but would not attend regularly. There is good representation from Eloika Lake and, if needed, Tammy said she could be an alternate for other Eloika Lake members.

Bryony suggested that the Committee wait until the next meeting to confirm membership. Bryony will ask the Pend Oreille Conservation District to call Carolyn to confirm if she still wants the recordings sent in the mail.

Debbie Kanyer and Mike Kanyer have attended three consecutive meetings and requested Committee membership. The Committee members accepted their request.

**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 October 22, 2007. The meeting will include a presentation (if this can be arranged in two weeks) and time to complete review of the issues.

Jeff requested that time be included at the next meeting to discuss the Little Spokane River navigability (i.e., the Holmon vs Griffith case).

Lynne will provide refreshments for the October 22, 2007 meeting.

Bryony will contact: 1) Shannon and Wilson to see if they are able to give a presentation on the Sacheen wetland delineation project; 2) Bijay at Liberty Lake to give a presentation on milfoil.

Brian will contact Ecology staff (e.g., Ken Merrill) for presentations on lakes and water quality. Bryony suggested that a presentation on work plans and QAPPs may also be appropriate.

Ideas for workshops / educational presentations:

- Shannon and Wilson on the 2007 Sacheen Lake wetland delineation project.
- 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).
- Milfoil control.
- DNR presentation on forest practice regulations.
- Ecology / Spokane County Conservation District presentation on WB LSR water quality impairment and TMDLs.

**Adjourn:**

- Bryony adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.
- Digital recording files for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD. Digital recording files of this meeting are:
  - WBLSR Committee 100807.wav