

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

### Meeting Summary

October 27, 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 Carney (alternate for Bill Harmon), Greg Sweeney (alternate for Burt Covert and Dean Fanara), Kathleen Werr (alternate for Mary Sterling and Darrell Johnson), Gil McGee, Luke Short (alternate for Richard Stafford and Jim Wood), Jill Short (alternate for Bonnie Stafford, Pat Wood and Jim Peterson), Pam Zarko, John Harkness, Lynne Anderson (alternate for Sandra Roath, Josh Roath and Dick Anderson), Bev Rowley (alternate for Tammy Kirk), Howard Rowley, Tom Wimpy, Sheila Pearman, Brian Farmer, Mike Lithgow, Barry Dutton (PBS&J Consulting), Ben Brattebo (Spokane County), Andrew Huddleston (POCD).

**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:**

- Bryony read a summary of beaver activity and population on Diamond Lake written by Don Stigal and dated September 12, 2008. John Harkness noted that the Diamond Lake Assoc. may hire Don to trap beaver at Diamond Lake. Gil McGee noted that there is a lot of beaver activity on the North Branch of Moon Creek (at June Peterson's property). The following summarizes the contents of the letter:
  - 8 beaver lodges (4 active with maybe up to 20 beaver in total) observed on the Camp Cowles property, on the west end of Diamond Lake.
  - Likely to be comparable population (i.e., 20 beaver) on Moon Creek between Diamond Lake and North Shore Rd.
  - Trapping in the fall would be the most effective since water levels are relatively low and the beaver tend to stay close to their lodges.
- Greg noted that the WRIA 55/57 WIT has requested information from Committee members on flow surges in the watershed (per action WB.SW2-5). Committee members on Horseshoe Lake noted that they have not observed flow surges over the falls this year.
- Bryony provided the CD with the Spokane County Conservation District flow data on it to Andrew Huddleston to put into the WB LSR Committee project files at the Pend Oreille Conservation District.

### **Membership:**

- Dale Smith has a conflicting meeting and will no longer be able to attend Committee meetings and does not want to continue as a Committee member.

### **September 22, 2008 Meeting Summary Review**

The following corrections were discussed and agreed to by the Committee: 1) add Dan Peterson to the list of members present at the meeting. The final September 2008 meeting summary will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

### **Presentation and Solicitation of Ideas for Water Storage Opportunities in the West Branch Little Spokane River Watershed – Barry Dutton, PBS&J.**

Ben Brattebo (Spokane County) noted that the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) has allocated grant funds as follows:

- \$30,000 to identify water storage opportunities in the WB Little Spokane River Watershed
- \$175,000 for identification of wetland restoration opportunities throughout the Little Spokane River watershed (WRIA 55) and the Middle Spokane River watershed (WRIA 57). The WB Little Spokane River Watershed is located within WRIA 55.

Barry noted that he has received ideas for water storage on Trout Lake from Dan Reiner. Barry said that he would like to receive other ideas for potential water storage and wetland restoration sites now and/or would be happy to receive a call or email with ideas. This project will address the preliminary feasibility of sites and develop a prioritized list of projects. Landowners will not be contacted as a part of this study since this study is a preliminary assessment. Discussions with landowners may occur as the next component of the project. The overall objective of the project is to prioritize projects that will increase summer flows in streams. Barry said that he would plan to attend a future WB LSR Committee meeting to update the Committee.

Barry noted that lakes and wetlands were likely larger following the last ice-age and have been shrinking since. Some ideas for identifying wetland restoration sites include:

- National wetland inventory data and past / current soil maps.
- Wetland areas that have been drained to convert the land into agricultural land.
- Areas around lakes and along riparian corridors (where wetlands may have occurred in the past and where water supply to support wetland vegetation is not limited).

Committee members identified wetland restoration and water storage ideas during the discussion time. These ideas were noted on the meeting flip chart and are listed below. Additional ideas were discussed directly with Barry (and noted by Barry) during the meeting break. The additional ideas that were discussed with Barry (and not with the group as a whole) are not listed in this meeting summary.

Wetland Restoration ideas noted on the flip chart are:

- Camp Cowles (Diamond Lake)
- Rustlers Gulch (property recently purchased by WDFW)
- South Diamond Lake
- Eloika Lake (north and south end)

- John Kopp property (currently in trust?)
- Harter Family land (past agricultural land) located about ½ mile up Moon Creek, between Diamond and Sacheen Lakes.
- Trask Pond
- Silver City property (125 acres) downstream of Sacheen Lake that may be for sale. This area is included in the recent (2008) wetland delineation work completed by Shannon and Wilson.

Water Storage ideas noted on the flip chart are:

- Trout Lake
- Blue Lake
- Rustlers Gulch
- Eloika Lake (consider dredging?)
- Trask Pond

### ***Questions and Information?***

Contact: Barry Dutton, Registered Professional Soil Scientist, PBS&J  
406-240-7798 / [bdutton@pbsj.com](mailto:bdutton@pbsj.com)

### **Review Draft Watershed Action Plan**

Bryony made sure that everyone had a copy of the WBLSR action table dated 012808. The Committee discussed the following changes for incorporation into the draft action plan:

- Page 7, WB.WQ7-4: Committee agreed to edit the action to read: “Make education for homeowners / developers on impacts of removing streambank and lake shore vegetation a requirement of substantial shoreline development permit and shoreline exemption.” Mike Lithgow noted that Ecology and WDFW currently come out with Pend Oreille County staff on the preliminary site visit (prior to completion of the JARPA) and the follow up site visit once the project has been implemented – for work conducted under a substantial shoreline development permit and shoreline exemption. Assistance from Ecology and WDFW for this has been very helpful to Pend Oreille County and provides a very good opportunity for landowner education. Mike noted that Pend Oreille County would like to have a more concise education document to provide to the landowners. Andrew Huddleston noted that the POCD is working on a simple "how-to" for streambank restoration for landowners as a component of their current riparian restoration grant. POCD will communicate with Pend Oreille County on development of this document. Bryony will update actions WB.WQ7-3 and WB.WQ7-4 with this information.
- Page 5, WB.WQ1-3: Committee confirmed that they did want to include the action for a watershed “manager” and that the Committee could take on this role. Bryony said that she would develop the wording for this action for discussion and approval at the next meeting. The Committee agreed. Concepts discussed for inclusion in the action included: coordination between the WB Little Spokane River watershed lake associations and landowners along the WB Little Spokane

River; a link between the residents and agencies of the WB of the Little Spokane River watershed and other implementing / funding entities such as the WRIA 55/57 WIT, EPA, Ecology and WDFW; and, a forum for communication and reporting progress on projects and development of an organization that could apply for funding (e.g., a non-profit organization). Barry suggested that the TriState Water Quality Council is a good example of an organization that developed to obtain funding and implement watershed improvement projects.

- The Committee agreed to include a recommendation (short-term, medium priority) that Pend Oreille County hire a water resources staff to provide consistent oversight for water resources related projects in Pend Oreille County. Ben Brattebo noted that Spokane County has a water resources group (within Spokane County utilities) that works primarily with grant funds. Brian Farmer noted that Okanogan County has a water resources staff.
- Page 11, WB.WQ12-2: Committee agreed to include installing new tubes as a component of the action
- Page 11, WB.WQ12-4: Committee agreed that the action be ranked mid-term, medium priority.
- Page 11, WB.WQ12-5: Committee agreed that the action be ranked long-term, medium priority and that beaver tubes may be considered in the future at Diamond Lake.
- Page 12, WB.WQ13-1&2: Committee agreed that these actions should be combined and ranked short-term and medium priority.
- Page 15, WB.G&LU2-2: Bryony will communicate with Jim to find out status of Silver City property sale (125 acres downstream of Sacheen Lake). Committee asked Barry to include this property on his list of wetland restoration / protection sites for the WRIA 55/57 study.
- Page 17, WB.WR2: Committee agreed to remove this issue and action from the plan.

Bryony noted that there are currently too many short-term, high priority actions identified in the draft plan. ***Bryony asked each committee member to identify only 2 short-term, high priority actions and to come to the next meeting ready to identify these two actions.*** Bryony asked the Committee to do this to more effectively identify priorities. Bryony said that she would email / mail the Committee the revised action plan within a week.

**Public Comment:**

- Bryony reported that Rob Lindsay requested that the WB LSR Committee consider projects that they may want to submit to the WRIA 55/57 group for consideration at the November 5 WRIA 55/57 WIT meeting for submission to Ecology for Watershed Planning implementation funding. The Committee discussed the following projects and agreed to suggest the first three to the WRIA 55/57 WIT. The Committee members said that they did not have the resources to write the applications but could assist the WIT / lead agencies with the grant applications if any of these projects are considered by the WIT. Greg volunteered to assist with items 1 and 2.

1. Wetland delineation, restoration and / or protection e.g., for a project / projects identified as a high priority in the current WRIA 55/57 work (WB.SW1).
2. Eloika Lake Additional Water Storage Feasibility (WB.SW4-2).
3. Hydrologic Study / Model for WB Little Spokane River Watershed (WB.SW2-6).
4. Proper Functioning Condition Study for WB LSR Streams in Pend Oreille County (WB.WQ-11-1).
5. WB Little Spokane River Watershed Barrier Survey (WB.H1-2).

**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 **6:00 – 8:30 pm on Monday November 17, 2008**. A Committee meeting is also scheduled for December 15. Bryony will bring coffee for the November and December meetings. The November meeting will focus on review of the draft watershed action plan, priorities for implementation and discussion on the role of the Committee into the future.

Additional ideas for workshops / educational presentations:

- Work Plans and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).
- WDFW on WB LSR wildlife habitats and Corridors (contact Jeff Lawlor / Steve Zender).

**Adjourn:**

Bryony adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm. Digital recording file (WBLSR Committee 102708.wav) for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD.