

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

Meeting Summary  
December 10, 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:** Bill Harmon (alternate for Burt Covert), Dale Smith, Dick Anderson (alternate for Lynne Anderson), Greg Sweeney (alternate for Mary Harmon), Howard Rowley (alternate for Josh Roath), Bev Rowley (alternate for Tammera Kirk and Sandra Roath), Jill Short (alternate for Jim Wood and Max Smith), Luke Short (alternate for Pat Wood), Jim Peterson, John Harkness, Karen Averitt, Linda Cannon, Mary Sterling (alternate for Kathleen Werr), Darrell Johnson, Mike Carney, Mike Lithgow, Pam Zarko, Rick Noll, Tom Wimpy, Reid Eichner.

**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:**

- Merry Christmas to everyone.

### **August 13, 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>.

- Jill said that she did not see Dan Peterson's comment in the summary. The following will be added to page 5 of the final meeting summary, "Dan Peterson noted that it is important to consider the needs of the Sacheen Lake homeowners since the Committee's funding is largely the result of concerns they expressed at a Pend Oreille County Commissioners' meeting where Senator Morton happened to also be present."
- The last sentence on page 3 under Field Trips will be edited to: "The Committee discussed the following as reasons for the loss of water from the lake that results in no outflow: 1) evaporation; 2) seepage from the lake into the ground; and 3) illegal diversion of water (if any) from the lake. The Committee noted that inflow and outflow monitoring would help to better understand the water balance for the lake."

**August 27, 2007 Meeting Summary Review:**

The draft August 27 meeting summary was accepted by the Committee without changes. The final meeting summary will be posted on the web site at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/wqmp/projects/ASP/WestBranch.asp>.

**November 26, 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>.

- The following will be added per the recording to the bulleted list on page 3: “Becki noted that this wetland is one of the most beautiful and undisturbed wetlands that she has seen.”
- Becki confirmed via email on 010308 that Shannon and Wilson delineated about 120 acres of wetland at a cost of about \$20,000 and walked the entire boundary of the wetland where possible and also viewed the rest of the wetland, as best we could, from the edge. The remainder of the wetland could not be accessed without a boat and boat access was not in the scope of work.
- The second to last two sentences on page four above Decision to Clarify Holman vs. Griffith was edited to: “Jim Peterson said that it would have been nice for the landowners to have been informed about this project. Jim noted that this study was completed without the permission of some landowners.”
- The Q&A on page 6 was edited to read: “**A:** The current condition of the downstream land arguably results from past activities such as dynamiting that would have resulted in spreading of debris. These past conditions are not the result of the activities of the downstream property owners.”
- The first sentence, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 7 was edited to read: “Currently, the Sacheen Lake Sewer District has signed an agreement with the downstream landowners of Dam #3 stating that volunteers belonging to the organization “Save-Our-Sacheen” are currently not allowed on the landowners’ property to maintain the beaver tubes.”
- The 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph on page 8 was edited to read: “Darrell noted that the tubes are cleaned regularly in the summer by Sacheen Lake Sewer District employees but that the tubes are not cleaned in the winter months.”

**Draft Action Plan (review):**

Bryony made sure everyone had copies of the 18 page handout of the draft WB LSR Action Table (dated 121007). Bryony worked with the Committee starting on page 5, to review and clarify the water quality and habitat issues, objectives and actions and establish timeframes and priorities for the actions. The following paragraphs summarize the discussion during this agenda item. The results of this discussion will be reflected in the draft WB LSR Action Table (dated 012808).

Issue WB.WQ1

- Invasive aquatic species (not aquatic weeds).
- This is an issue for river reaches also.

- Invasive aquatic species are not an issue at Trout Lake.
- Diamond and Sacheen Lakes have integrated aquatic plant management plans.
- Horseshoe and Eloika Lakes do not currently have integrated aquatic plant management plans.
- Volunteers complete the invasive aquatic species work at Diamond Lake.
- Do not limit funding options.

Issue WB.WQ3

- There is a half-culvert that directs runoff directly into Sacheen Lake.
- Mike Lithgow said that he has passed this on to Pend Oreille County roads.
- Mike Lithgow said that a letter from the Committee to Pend Oreille County roads with this recommendation would be a good idea in the next couple of months.

Issue WB.WQ4

- There is an ongoing sediment study for Loon Lake in WRIA 59.

Issue WB.WQ5

- DNR regulates private roads.
- The kick-off meeting for the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program update (a 2-3 year process) is scheduled for Jan 19, 2008.

Issue WB.WQ6

- Rick Noll (SCCD) suggested that this issue and actions are passed on to the Little Spokane River TMDL group.
- Livestock cannot degrade water quality. Fencing and off creek watering systems is a method to address this.
- Action WQ6-2 deleted.

Issue WB.WQ7

- Rick Noll (SCCD) suggested that this issue and actions are passed on to the Little Spokane River TMDL group.
- SCCD has done some general pesticide testing and found low levels of pesticides in the LSR system. The education program for fertilizers will also address pesticides and herbicides.
- Counties should be responsible for 7-2.
- Action WQ7-4 deleted (duplicate of 7-1).

Issue WB.WQ8

- Rick Noll (SCCD) suggested that this issue and actions are passed on to the Little Spokane River TMDL group.

Issue WB.WQ9

- Rick Noll (SCCD) suggested that this issue and actions are passed on to the Little Spokane River TMDL group.
- Should be inclusive of the WB LSR watershed.
- Bryony will email Ray King re. Diamond Lake sewer lagoon needs.

Issue WB.WQ10

- Discuss at Jan 2008 meeting.

Issue WB.WQ11

- Combine WB.WQ11-2 with WB.WQ7-3.
- Combine WB.WQ11-1 with WB.WQ7-2.
- Add action for POCD to complete proper functioning condition stream inventory and assessment for the West Branch LSR in Pend Oreille County. Spokane County CD has completed proper functioning condition stream inventory and assessment for the West Branch LSR in Spokane County.
- Add action to implement projects prioritized in the proper functioning condition stream inventory and assessment for the West Branch LSR in Pend Oreille County and Spokane County.
- Projects and high quality stream reaches can be provided to the Counties for incorporation into the Shoreline Master Programs.

Issue WB.WQ12

- High water / flooding causing bank erosion is a water quantity issue that potentially results in water quality impairment.

Issue WB.WQ13 and Issue WB.WQ14

- Combine WB.WQ13 and Issue WB.WQ14.
- WB.SW3-2 is an action to assess options to address flooding at Sacheen Lake that duplicates WB.WQ13-3. Delete WB.WQ13-3.
- Add an action to assess clean up of debris in the stream channel below Sacheen Lake.

Issue WB.WQ15

- Include an action for the WB LSR Committee to write a letter to the Counties and WDFW to enforce against illegal beaver dam removal.

Issue WB.WR2-1

- Committee recommended that this issue and action be deleted from the WB LSR Committee's plan. Committee did not feel comfortable taking this on since it is so specific to Diamond Lake.

Issue WB.H2

- Inventory of wildlife habitats and corridors includes what exists currently.
- Other bird species are also a concern – add to the issue.

**Draft Action Plan – review of projects that have received funding:**

Bryony informed the Committee of actions that have received full or partial funding. Bryony suggested that the Committee consider this as they identify their priority projects for Committee funding in 2008 / 2009.

- **WB.SW1-1 and WB.SW1-2.** The WRIA 55/57 WIT has received a \$175,000 grant from Ecology to review information on existing and historic wetlands in WRIA 55 and WRIA 57. As a component of the project, landowners within the WB LSR watershed will be contacted. In Phase 2 of this project, wetland areas will be selected for further study / delineation. Tom Wimpy is on the consultant selection committee for this project.
- **WB.SW2-1.** The WRIA 55/57 WIT has agreed to assign some (about \$30,000) second year implementation funds to this project.
- **WB.SW2-2 and SW2-3.** The WRIA 55/57 WIT has provided some funds to the Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD) to continue monitoring the WB LSR gages and work with the United State Geological Survey (USGS) to reestablish the Elk gage (on the main stem of the Little Spokane River). ***There is still a need to assess the data that is collected and conduct seepage runs at low flow to better understand the location of gaining and losing reaches.***
- **WB.SW4-2.** The WRIA 55/57 WIT may provide some funding for this action in 2008 / 2009. This action was identified by the WIT as a third tier action for implementation in the final WRIA 55/57 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP).
- **WB.G&LU1-1.** The WRIA 55/57 WIT is funding a study to identify areas of strained water resources in WRIA 55 and WRIA 57 and plans to provide this information to County planning departments and water purveyors.

Luke asked if there are any plans to identify lake levels for any of the lakes in the WB LSR watershed. Bryony said that she is aware of assessment of a water control structure for Eloika Lake – but no specifics on lake levels.

Bryony noted that there had been some discussion in the past of a hydrologic study for the entire West Branch of the Little Spokane River watershed – since it is clear that what happens in one lake impacts other lakes / river reaches. A hydrologic study and hydrologic modeling of the watershed may also help to assess the potential impacts and benefits of implementation projects.

**Implementation Project Prioritization:**

Bryony reminded the Committee that the funding that will come through CTED in 2008 is currently designated only for activities related to beaver tubes. At the last meeting, the Committee asked Jeff Storms if additional funding would be needed for the installation of the 4-foot beaver tubes at Dam #3 below Sacheen Lake. Jeff replied that he did not think additional funds would be needed. Jeff said that he would report back to the Committee at this meeting following a meeting he had planned with Pend Oreille County. However, Jeff has not attended this meeting. Mike Lithgow said that he did not think that Jeff Storms had met with Pend Oreille County.

The CTED representative indicated that the Committee needs to give Senator Morton an indication of the Committee's priorities so that the Senator can request that the funding be reassigned for the Committee's priority project(s) at the legislature's short session (that starts in early January 2008). Andy Huddleston has tried calling Senator Morton a number of times and has not yet received a response.

Bryony surveyed the Committee for their priority implementation projects for 2008 / 2009. These priorities are listed below:

- A comprehensive streamflow and lake level gauging strategy to collect and assess information that can be used to support a hydrologic study and development of a hydrologic model for the West Branch of the Little Spokane River watershed. This action reflects the understanding that any changes made at one lake / river reach have the potential to impact the entire watershed. This action is intended to support implementation projects to address, for example, high water at Sacheen Lake and low summer lake levels at Eloika Lake.
- Implementation actions to address invasive aquatic species (particularly Eurasian Watermilfoil) that include preparation of integrated aquatic plant management plans (as required by Washington State) and implementation of plan recommendations.
- Continued administration for the Committee by the Pend Oreille Conservation District (requiring administrative funds).
- Funding to support continued facilitation for Committee meetings.

Bryony said that she would provide a draft letter for review by the Committee and would mail the final letter to Senator Morton before the end of the year.

**Public Comment:**

- Mike Lithgow said that he would provide a presentation on the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program update at the February 2008 Committee meeting.
- Mike Lithgow informed the Committee that the kick-off meeting for the Pend Oreille County Shoreline Master Program update is on January 17. The venue will be announced. Mike said that he will send Bryony an email to forward to the group.
- Jim Peterson announced that the 125 acres along about ½ mile of the WB LSR owned by his family does not fit into his family's timber land investment or development portfolio. Jim said that his family would be interested in selling this land for public use.
- Mike Lithgow noted that the WRIA 55/57 DIP is out for vote and approval and will be adopted in January 2008.
- Greg thanked Bryony for her facilitation of the Committee.
- Greg thanked the Sacheen Lake members and other Committee members for being willing to discuss difficult issues at Committee meetings.

**Membership:**

Mike Carney confirmed that Dean Fanara would like to continue to be a Committee member. Bryony said that Dean or his alternate need to attend Committee meetings in the future to continue as a Committee member.

The Committee voted to remove the following as voting members due to lack of attendance at Committee meetings (by the individuals or alternates): Carolyn Russell, Kitty Russell, Steve Petroni, Susan Ruby and Tammy Magnuson. The Committee agreed by consensus to remove these individuals from the Committee membership.

**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 January 28, 2008. Bryony will bring coffee for the next meeting. The meeting will include:

- A presentation from Ken Merrill (Ecology) on lakes.
- Continued work on the draft action table.

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 8:30 pm.
- Digital recording files for this meeting will be mailed to the POCD. Digital recording files of this meeting are:
  - WBLSR Committee 121007.wav