

WRIA 55/57: Little Spokane River and Middle Spokane River Watersheds
WRIA 56: Hangman/Latah Creek
WRIA 54: Lower Spokane River

Regional Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) ***Meeting***

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Spokane County Conservation District Conference Room
Spokane, WA

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Mike Hermanson, <i>Spokane County</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>	Andy Dunau, <i>Spokane River Forum</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Walt Edelen, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Lindsay Chutas, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District, Facilitator</i>	
Tom Wimpy <i>Diamond Lake, WB-LSR</i>	Craig Volosing, <i>Palisades Neighborhood</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Association</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Bryan St. Clair, <i>Modern Electric Water</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Todd Ableman, <i>City of Cheney</i>
Ty Wick, <i>SCWD #3/SAJB</i>	Linda Kiefer, <i>Avista</i>
Michael Hamilton, <i>EWU</i>	Bill Shelton, <i>Fairchild AFB</i>
Mike Peterson, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Ben Brattebo, <i>Spokane County</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Guy Gregory, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Greg Sweeny, <i>Eloika Lake/WB-LSR</i>
Bill Abrahamse, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Brian Crossley, <i>STOI</i>
Bill Harmon, <i>Eloika Lake/WB-LSR</i>	Gary Mitchell, <i>NRCS</i>
Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Co Conservation District</i>
Wes McCart, <i>SCFB</i>	David Luders, <i>Indian Vil. Est. Water Ass.</i>
John Covert, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Dale Gill, <i>Resident</i>
Charlie Kessler, <i>Stevens Co Conservation District</i>	

Introductions: Lindsay Chutas called the meeting to order and committee members introduced themselves.

Water Demand Forecast Presentation: Mike Hermanson gave a presentation about Spokane County's Water Demand Forecast Model. The model is comprised of a network of smaller models which utilized water use information from a variety of sources including surveys and purveyor data. The model runs in Microsoft Excel 2007. The model is designed to estimate water demands at the sub-watershed level of Spokane County through 2040, and can be used to evaluate various scenarios such as changes to development and growth in the different areas of the county. The model has been verified by actual water use data in order to make slight adjustments to the model parameters to be a more accurate forecast of water demand. Spokane County has made the model and a report describing the model available through their website. County staff are willing to assist members of the community who want to use the model.

Spokane River Watersheds Implementation Activites: Mike Hermanson updated the group that WRIA 54 WIT had completed their DIP in Dec 2010. Current projects for WRIA 54 include the West Plains Hydrogeologic database, Bradford Water Storage Project Study, Chamokane Creek Watershed Council Support, and the Spokane River Forum Conference Support. Project applications that have been submitted for the 2011-13 budget are the West Plains Hydrogeologic Framework and Groundwater

Budget, Paleochannel Aquifer Study and Assessment of Reclaimed Water Aquifer Recharge, West Plains Delineation of Aquifer Zones within Basalt Formations, and a Deep and Coulee Creek Watershed Restoration. Rob Lindsay updated the group on the WRIA 55/57 activities. The current projects include The McKenzie Wetland Enhancement Engineering Design, which Ben Brattebo described, the Little Spokane Groundwater Elevation and Stream Flow Monitoring, The Water Demand Forecast Model Refinement, and the Little Spokane Stream Gage Upgrades. The project applications that have been submitted for 2011-13 are the Water Resources Study of the Groundwater Systems of the Little Spokane River Basin, The McKenzie Wetland Enhancement, and the Saltese Flats Restoration. Walt Edelen updated the group on the WRIA 56 activities. The current projects include Livestock Cost-share, Livestock Inventory and Direct Seed Mentoring Project, and Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Project, a Small Town Leak Detection Program, Groundwater Monitoring Project, the AWEF Program, Phosphorus Reduction Project, the Willow Warrior Weekend Program, The DeSmet Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Program, the Livestock Implementation Projects from the Conservation Commission, The CDA Casino Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Culvert Replacement on Bunnel Creek in Idaho, and funding of the USGS State-Line Gage at Tekoa. Applications submitted for 2011-13 include USGS State-Line Gage Funding, Fish Habitat Restoration Projects, A suspended Sediment Reduction Project, and an Irrigation Efficiency Project.

Discussion of Common Issues and Collaboration Potential:

Regional Funding Mechanisms: Rob Lindsay started the conversation by discussing the need for a new set of funds to fund watershed planning in order to prepare for potential state funding cuts to watershed planning. He discussed how King County, Snohomish County have worked funding for groundwater protection programs from collecting fees from surface water programs and distributing them to be used in accordance with their Groundwater Management Plans. Island County has recently passed a Clean Water Utility with which funds can be distributed to implement watershed projects. A discussion within the group ensued about the challenges in making these sorts of funding sources become a reality and how to continue to fund watershed implementation projects. Walt brought up the Conservation District Assessment and the potential to raise that assessment as a source of potential funding. He will meet with Rob and Rusty to discuss this potential further.

Land Use Decision Making and Evaluation of Water Availability: Rob Lindsay brought up how WRIA 54 had included in its DIP recommendations based on the connection between land use regulation and water supply evaluation. These recommendations were well received by WIT members in the 55/57 WIT and the 56 WIT as good recommendations. It was suggested that all of the WIT's work together to make these recommendations become adopted by the involved agencies in order to protect the long-term water supply and legal availability of water.