

John Endres
3473 Scotia Road
Newport, WA 99156
jimmendres@tds.net
509-550-5041
March 29, 2019

Carl Einberger
Aspect Consulting

re: Comments regarding The Little Spokane River Watershed (WRIA-55) Plan Update (ESSB 6091/RCW 90.94)

Dear Carl Einberger:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the (WRIA-55) Plan Update. I have two questions that are listed below.

Question 1. Will the modeling used for your WRIA-55 Plan Update include the extended boundary of modeling for the Little Spokane Watershed as described in the two previous reports listed below, and will suggested data needs be addressed?

1-A. The paper “**Integrated Groundwater/Surface Water Model for the Little Spokane Watershed—Water Bank Modeling and decision Support tool**”, WEST Consultants and Earthfx, December 2018.

2. Watershed Overview. “The study area was extended further north to the Pend Oreille River to include this feature as a hydrologic boundary for the integrated model.” Figure 1.2 is the map: **Extents of the Little Spokane River (LSR) Model Area.**

The WEST Consultants/Earthfx Report, section “**1.7 Previous Investigations**” includes question 1.B below.

1-B. The Scientific Investigations Report 2013-5124, “**Hydrology of the Little Spokane River Basin, Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties, Washington**”, USGS, Kahle, et al is listed as a “First and foremost” key document that was relied on heavily.

The Kahle report page 29 lists Data Needs for the Little Spokane river Basin, pages 29, 30. Page 30 contains the map: **Little Spokane River Basin as delineated in the National Watershed Boundary Dataset (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2012)**

“Data Needs

During the course of this investigation, several data needs were identified that, if filled, would provide a more complete understanding of the hydrogeologic framework of the Little Spokane River Basin. Completion of these tasks could aid in the eventual development of a groundwater surface-water flow model to estimates effects of groundwater use on streamflow and provide managers with a tool to evaluate various groundwater-use scenarios in the basin. Data needs for future research identified during this study are listed below, in no particular order of importance.

- **A comparison of the boundary of the Little Spokane Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 55 with the boundary of the Little Spokane River Basin as delineated in the National Watershed Boundary Dataset (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2012), and an evaluation of possible**

groundwater and surface-water inputs from the larger area that is not included in WRIA 55 (fig. 12) (map).

- An enhanced definition of the inferred groundwater divide near Newport would provide a better understanding of the boundary conditions at the northeastern extent of the basin.
- A review of existing water-level and streamflow monitoring networks for adequacy of data collection would assure a robust data set for future modeling efforts.
- Measurement of stream discharge throughout the basin during low-flow conditions would help identify gaining and losing stream reaches, and further the understanding of groundwater and surface-water interactions in the basin.
- A compilation and review of available estimates of water use, including Spokane County (2010b), in the basin and further refinements or updates, also will be needed for future modeling and analysis.
- Development of a groundwater budget of the basin would provide water users with a better understanding of this important resource.
- Acquire deep borehole information in areas where they are currently not available, particularly near the outlet of the basin east of Dart Hill”

Question 2. Will county comprehensive plans be consulted for estimating future land usage?

Pend Oreille County Commissioners have submitted Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application CPU-18-POC that will: delete the “Public Lands” or PL zone from the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations and the Table of Permitted Zoning Uses. If this amendment goes forward, significant changes to land use could result in substantial increases of development in Pend Oreille county in the near future.

Thank you,

John Endres

jimmendres@tds.net

Member of Responsible Growth Northeast Washington