

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan June 15, 2005

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water and Power</i>	Meagan Harding, <i>WA state Dept of Health</i>
Harry McLean, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Dave Jensen, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>
Roger Krieger, <i>City of Deer Park</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Water Quality Advisory Committee</i>	Dean Cummings, <i>Pend Oreille County</i>
Scott Kuhta, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>	Jane Cunningham, <i>The Lands Council</i>	Merrill Ott, <i>Stevens County</i>
Ty Wick, <i>Spokane Aquifer Joint Board</i>	Keith Holliday, <i>State Caucus, Department of Ecology</i>	Reanette Boese & Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: Stan Miller, Jeff Storms and Ron Schmidt of Sacheen Lake.

Introductions: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting summary for May 4th was reviewed and approved.

Update on Approval Process: Deer Park, the City of Spokane, the City of Spokane Valley and Liberty Lake have approved the plan. Millwood has not yet, but, since they have not been attending meetings, it may not be necessary before the vote. Rob expressed interest in making sure all the “governments” in the WRIA are aware of the process and have the opportunity to participate as we move into implementation.

SEPA Review of the Watershed Plan: Dave Jensen sent in some suggestions for the SEPA review which Rob incorporated. Rob gave the SEPA checklist to Spokane County Utilities SEPA coordinator, who is checking it for completeness. The SEPA announcement will be published in the Spokesman Review, the Newport Miner, and the Steven’s County paper of record: The Chewelah Independent. We will publish the notice after we get Planning Unit approval and before asking the County Commissioners to adopt it.

Lloyd pointed out that Chapter 6, the SEPA chapter, is not in the document handed out at the meeting. It will be included in the next draft.

Changes to the Watershed Plan: The Planning Unit discussed the additional wording in Chapter 3 proposed by Pend Oreille County. “Monthly” was changed to “daily” in two places and removed in one place. The changes to the “level of effort” columns for the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane County were pointed out. Changing the priorities (timing) at the end of the Implementation Matrix from “1-2005 to 2006, 2-2007 to 2010, 3-2010+” to “1 -1 to 2 years after adoption; 2 - 3 to 6 years after adoption; 3 - 7+ years after adoption” was discussed. The change was accepted with the understanding that the City of Spokane’s monetary commitment is for a 5 year period.

Comments to Pend Oreille County Commissioner Dean Cummings from Pend Oreille Conservation District’s Don Commins were read and discussed. The sense of the Planning Unit is that the Plan leaves the door open for all of the suggestions listed and that the Planning Unit will want to consider them during the

implementation phase. The memo along with a Planning Unit response will be included in an appendix at the end of the Watershed Plan.

Commissioner Dean Cummings joined the meeting later and the Planning Unit had a chance to express their desire to work with Pend Oreille County on water availability and high water levels in Sacheen Lake during the implementation phase (and beyond if necessary and possible).

It was decided that Spokane County would issue the revised Draft Watershed Management Plan as soon as possible, based on comments taken to-date and today's meeting, and the vote for the Plan approval would occur at the next meeting.

Sacheen Lake Update: Jeff Storms and Ron Schmidt gave the Planning Unit an update on their efforts to help Sacheen Lake. The water and sewer district will vote on a bond to raise money to buy the property downstream of the lake needed to access the beaver dam tubes. Fish and Wildlife wants the Sacheen Lake people to install larger (4 ft) tubes through the beaver dams to let water out faster. These tubes are more expensive and may drain the lake faster than Sacheen Lake homeowners want. The Betterment Association has tried to find trappers to remove beavers, but the price of beavers makes that uneconomical.

They have also learned of a dam constructed downstream of Sacheen Lake at Trout Lake. Trout Lake is much lower in elevation than Sacheen Lake, so the dam does not create additional problems for Sacheen Lake but it may be reducing the amount of water flowing to the lower parts of the Little Spokane River during low flow times. It was not clear to the Planning Unit members if the subject dam at Trout Lake is a legal structure or not. Keith Holliday added that WDOE is looking into the issue

Keith Holliday said there may be grants available from Washington State's Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) which could help the Sacheen Lake problem.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for July 6, 2005, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District upstairs conference room.