

Meeting Summary Planning Unit

Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
January 18, 2006

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, *City of Spokane*
Susan McGeorge, *Whitworth Water*
Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water &
Power*
Tim Vore, *Avista*

Mike Lithgow, *Pend Oreille
County*
Dave Jones, *Water Quality*
Keith Holliday, *State Caucus,
Department of Ecology*

Reanette Boese and Rob
Lindsay, *Spokane
County*

Consultants that attended the meeting were: none

Guests that attended the meeting were: BiJay Adams, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water, Jeff Storms, Sacheen Lake, Tom Wimpy, Diamond Lake Homeowners and Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Assn.

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Rob called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for December 13, 2005 was reviewed and accepted as final.

Update on the Joint Session of County Commissioners: Rob was able to arrange a joint session of the commissioners of Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties for them to meet to adopt or reject the watershed plan. The meeting will be January 31 at 6 p.m. at Spokane County Fire Station #42 in Chattaroy. Rob will prepare resolutions for the commissioners to sign.

Update on tapes and other records of Planning Unit business: According to Washington State law, records must be kept 6 years. Spokane County will keep tapes of the meetings and other records six years. They will be available to anyone wishing to review them in the Spokane County Public Works building.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow study and the Watershed Council Grant: Work on the grant agreement for the instream flow data collection between Monroe Street and the confluence with Latah Creek continues. The Department of Ecology views the data gap below Monroe Street as critical, and hopes this grant can fund a lot of good data collection. Task 2 of the grant agreement is a detailed scope of work for the instream flow study. The technical team, made up of WRIA 55/57, WRIA 54, and Washington State agency representatives, will develop the detailed scope. Lloyd Brewer, Keith Holliday and Rob Lindsay volunteered to be on the instream flow technical team. Task 3 includes the field work, a report, and public review of the data. The WRIA 54 instream flow work will be done concurrently by the same consultant. The grant amount for the lower WRIA 57 instream flow work is \$80,000 and the amount for the WRIA 54 work is \$100,000.

Update on conditions in the lakes of the upper Little Spokane Watershed: Tom Wimpy said that Diamond Lake is still low but the wetlands below the lake are inundated. He thinks the beavers may be diverting the water around the lake. Jeff Storms said the Sacheen Lake water level is above the staff gage. Greg Sweeney reported that Eloika Lake is also above the staff gage but it is still below the high water level.

Water Conservation and Lake Management: BiJay Adams of the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District first spoke about the water conservation projects at their office. A demonstration garden of native and drought tolerant plants was started when the office was built in 1999. This last summer they installed a soil

moisture sensor which interrupts the sprinkler system when the soil moisture is above the prescribed amount. They also removed some turf and turned off the sprinkler system in a swale. They reduced their water usage 36%.

BiJay also does sprinkler system audits, mostly for commercial customers. He gives recommendations on making the system more efficient, though the customer does not need to implement the recommendations.

BiJay talked next about projects to clean up Liberty Lake. The lake had major problems with algae and lake weeds. The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water district was formed in the 1970s to address the problems. The district did an alum treatment and weed removal to lower phosphorus in the water. The sewer system and stormwater measures keep nutrients from entering the lake. The district works to prevent erosion and reports erosion problems. They also work to remove unwanted vegetation from in and around the lake, such as milfoil. They collect leaf and weed material in the spring and compost it away from the lake.

Public Comment and other issues: BiJay reminded Planning Unit members about the Lake Conference on February 11.

Wrap Up: The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Spokane County Conservation District downstairs conference room.