

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane River – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
January 17, 2007

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Dave Jones, <i>Spokane County</i>	Rick Noll, <i>SCCD</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	<i>Planning Commission</i>	Reanette Boese and Rob
Mary Wren-Wilson, <i>City of Liberty</i>	Tim Vore, <i>Avista Utilities</i>	Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i>
<i>Lake</i>	Brian Walker, <i>The Lands Council</i>	

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Reanette called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for December 20, 2006 was reviewed and accepted with two typographical corrections.

Update on the West Branch LSR watershed committee: The committee is still looking for a facilitator. An RFP should be issued soon.

Update on the Middle Spokane Instream Flow: Rob Lindsay reported that Tetra Tech's new schedule is to deliver the report to the ISF Technical Group and the Planning Unit by mid-February. A meeting of the ISF Technical Team is scheduled for February 27th from 1-5 p.m. at the Spokane County Public Works Building. On February 28th there will be a public meeting for both WRIAs 54 and 57 to hear a presentation on the report. This meeting will be from 1-3 p.m. at the Airway Heights Community Center in the upstairs courtroom.

New Grants: WRIA 55/57 was approved for two new grants from the Department of Ecology, one for West Branch Gauging and one for Irrigation Conservation. All the grant activities for these two projects must be completed by June 30th so they are on a tight timeline.

The Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD) will be administering and implementing the West Branch Gauging project. Rick Noll reported that SCCD will reestablish some gages initially installed by WSU and add some new gauges including one at the outlet of Sacheen Lake. There are enough pressure transducers to monitor lake levels as well as stream flows. SCCD is hoping for monitoring help from the SCC Water Resources program.

For irrigation efficiency, Reanette is looking for a few public space irrigators to serve as pilot projects. The money will be used to reimburse them for expenses in purchasing and installing efficient irrigation equipment. The County is hoping to identify 3-5 projects. A workgroup will be needed to establish criteria and select projects for funding. Members of the Regional Conservation committee may be on this workgroup. Susan McGeorge, Rob Lindsay, Reanette Boese and a City of Spokane representative will be on the committee.

Spokane Water System Plan Checklist: The committee of Susan McGeorge, Kris Graf, Brian Walker, and Reanette reviewed the City of Spokane's checklist. Susan commented that the checklist is consistent with the watershed plan. She said it was very precise, easy to follow, and included a very comprehensive list of conservation strategies. She was very impressed with the document. Susan recommended that the Planning Unit send a letter to the Department of Health stating that the City of Spokane's Water System Plan is

consistent with the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan. The group concurred.

Phase IV Detailed Implementation Plan: Susan Gulick of Sound Resolutions was introduced. She will be assisting the Planning Unit in preparing the Detailed Implementation Plan. Susan provided an overview of the process she is recommending.

The Planning Unit will be asked to do “homework” prior to each meeting that involves rating each recommendation in the Watershed Plan for its benefit to the watershed and the practicality of implementation. Planning Unit members will also note ideas for specific actions (WHO should do WHAT) to implement the recommendation. After discussing each recommendation at a Planning Unit meeting, Susan will summarize the discussion in a draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP).

In the DIP, each recommendation from the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Plan will have a one-page list of implementation details, including:

- ✓ Immediate actions (next 2 years)
- ✓ Near-term actions (2-5 year)
- ✓ Long-term actions (5-10 years)
- ✓ Implementation considerations (any foreseen opportunities, obstacles, or other considerations)
- ✓ Performance indicators
- ✓ Funding sources
- ✓ Permits or legislative actions required
- ✓ Oversight responsibilities.

The DIP will include a series of matrices summarizing the responsibilities of each implementing entity, funding needs, Planning Unit tasks, and any other suggestions from the Planning Unit. The DIP will also include an assessment of inchoate water rights.

Susan G. discussed the need for more frequent meetings, longer meetings, or sub-committee meetings in order to complete the DIP on schedule. Planning Unit members noted that they preferred longer meetings to more frequent meetings. It was agreed that the Planning Unit would try 3 to 3 1/2 hour meetings beginning in February. This can be reevaluated after a few meetings to determine how much progress is being made.

Public Comment: There is a meeting regarding West Plains Water Issues scheduled for February 1 at the EWU Music Building on West 7th Street in Cheney.

Comments on the Avista Dam Relicensing Draft EIS are due on March 6. Planning Unit members are encouraged to comment. We will discuss the recommendations related to the Avista relicensing at the February meeting.

Sarah Hunt has been hired as the new Watershed lead for the Dept. of Ecology. She begins February 1 and will be representing Ecology at WRIA 55/57 meetings.

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be January 31 at the Spokane Valley Hospital Outpatient education classroom. The BLM and Forest Service will present information on cleanup policies related to transport of metals during floods. Mike LaScuola of the Spokane Regional Health District will speak about the fishing advisories on the Spokane River.

Wrap Up: There will not be a steering committee meeting in February. The next Planning Unit meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Spokane County Conservation District. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.