

Meeting Summary
Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane – Middle Spokane River Local Watershed Plan
April 2, 2008

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

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| Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i> | Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i> |
| Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i> | Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i> |
| Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County</i> | Kris Graf, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i> |
| Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i> | Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i> |
| Mike Lithgow, <i>Pend Oreille County</i> | Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i> |
| Sara Hunt, <i>Dept of Ecology</i> | Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i> |
| Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i> | Stan Miller, <i>Property Owner</i> |
| Brian Walker, <i>The Lands Council</i> | |

Consultants Present: Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Guest Present: Brook Beeler, *Dept of Ecology*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for March 19, 2008 was reviewed and approved with two corrections, under West Branch Little Spokane River Committee Reports should read: Mike Lithgow reported that *Pend Oreille County* received \$350,000 for the *Shoreline Master Program Update* that will be completed by 2010.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

West Branch Little Spokane River: Tom Wimpy reported that at the last meeting March 26, 2008 they had a presentation on beaver tube techniques and they came up with a plan to add wire mesh at a distance from the ends of the tubes to keep the beavers out and let debris go through. This project has been funded. They also discussed using the Liberty Lake Watershed Pledge idea for their area. The next West Branch Meeting will be April 28, 2008.

Middle Spokane Instream Flow Report: No meetings have occurred since the last update. Reanette reported that the consultant is working on a memo recapping the ideas for instream flows that have been discussed at the meetings. No single idea has been decided on. The Planning Unit and other committees will discuss the ideas.

Conservation: Reanette reported RWCC held their meeting March 20, 2008. There will be brown bags on Native Plants April 30th and May 1st (see upcoming meetings). Ben Brattebo talked about the rebate program for indoor conservation Spokane County is working on. They are seeking a firm to help with the rebate. They are developing an RFP, and would like others to coordinate on this rebate program. This WIT has money in the budget for irrigation conservation classes and Brook Beeler suggested t a EPA WaterSense “Irrigation Auditor’s.” class might be a way to encourage local irrigation professionals to become WaterSense certified and meet the goals for public space irrigation conservation as well.

Steve Skipworth talked to the mayor of Liberty Lake about conservation, particularly about ordinances to make public spaces more water efficient. He also reported that Spokane County Parks will be closing Liberty Lake golf course temporarily for updates including the irrigation system.

APC Meeting: No update.

Grant Updates: Reanette reported that they had received 10 statements of qualifications for the RFQ sent out for the Saltese Flats Restoration and that they hope to receive about the same for the Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study. Spokane County GIS will be running a Land Quantity Analysis (LQA) of the Little Spokane

Watershed portion of Spokane County for the Water Availability project of the Implementation to start a "Land Quantity Analysis." Pend Oreille County has already contracted with the Spokane County ISD Department to digitize parcels as part of their Shorelines Management Plan update and has \$2,250 for the portions of Pend Oreille County in the Little Spokane Watershed. The consensus was that the Planning Unit could spend up to \$4,500 for additional work needed to do an LQA on the portion on Pend Oreille County in the Watershed. Similar analyses for parts of WRIA 57 will be considered in the next state fiscal year.

Memorandum of Agreement: Reanette reported that the signed MOAs are coming in. The county will sign mid April, SAJB has been approved and Liberty Lake still needs to have theirs signed. At the next Planning Unit meeting, Reanette will have a list of those who have not signed.

Conservation Education and Outreach: Brook Beeler, Department of Ecology gave an update on the conservation programs Department of Ecology has been working on (Watershed Pledge Outreach Strategy). She brought copies of the Liberty Lake Watershed Pledge booklet as an example, that Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District has been using to get people informed and involved. The booklets cost approximately \$4,000 to print 3,000. An electronic version of the pledge can be found on the SAJB web site.

Ecology Budget Proposals: Every two years Department of Ecology presents budget proposals to the legislature. The Planning Unit discussed priority projects and estimated costs that they will propose to DOE for the 2009-2011 budget year. The list of preliminary projects and costs are due by May 15, 2008. Reanette, Susan McGeorge, Lloyd Brewer, and Rob Lindsay will work to complete the forms. Sara Hunt will help with the wording and completion of the forms.

1. Potential funding of \$1.4 million to continue a feasibility analysis of increasing summer river flow using non-natural recharge, identify public/private purchase of important wetlands in the WB LSR watershed for conservation, hire a consultant to identify potential infiltration areas to augment the Spokane River's summer baseflow, conduct a feasibility analysis of the installation of a water control structure at the outlet of Eloika Lake to maintain lake levels and to augment baseflows.
2. Potential funding of 5 million plus ½ FTE for developing and implementing a golf course water conservation strategy, public parks water conservation strategy, identify owners of domestic exempt wells and notify in mid-summer requesting that they voluntarily conserve water and continue to conduct irrigation efficiency classes.
3. Potential funding of 1million plus 2 FTE for developing or revising existing databases of all water rights holders in the Little Spokane Watershed to make a compatible water rights database and design a water use inventory for WRIA 55/57.
4. Potential funding of \$100,000 for gauging strategy for streams and lakes in the West Branch of the Little Spokane River.
5. Potential funding of \$300,000 plus ½ FTE to help develop water reclamation and reuse education/outreach programs using survey data from citizens perceptions of water reclamation and reuse.
6. Lloyd Brewer and Rob Lindsay will start the work on this form for potential funding of \$50,000 for designing and conducting an analysis of moving pumping away from wells near the river during the summer low-flow season.
7. Potential funding of \$10,000 to incorporate the new license agreement for Avista into the Bi-State Aquifer model once the agreement is finalized.

Request for Counties to Hire Technical Specialists: Spokane County will take the lead on draft letters to counties about hiring a Wetland Biologist and a Code Enforcement Officer.

Spokane County Water District #3 Water System Plan: It was decided that Spokane County Water District #3 Water System Plan is not inconsistent with the Watershed Plan.

Detailed Implementation Plan: Susan Gulick requested the Planning Unit members review the "Status of Implementation Actions" before the next meeting in May. The meeting ran over and there was not enough time for discussion.

Other Issues/Announcements: A copy of the comment letter Rob Lindsay made in behalf of the WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team for the “Critical Areas Ordinance – Public hearing of March 25, 2008” was distributed and recommended that anyone wanting to make comments should do so during the comment period.

Upcoming Meetings:

Brown Bag Lunch with WSU Master Gardeners

April 30, 2008 12:00-1:00 p.m. Spokane Regional Health District – Auditorium

May 1, 2008 12:00-1:00 p.m. Spokane City Hall – City Council Chambers

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Meeting - May 7 & 8, 2008 Tri-Cities (contact Reanette for info)

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

TUESDAY May 6, 2008 9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Spokane County Conservation District
Joint meeting with WRIA 56. The Department of Ecology on will provide briefings on Water Rights and the Pre-Adjudication process. **NOTE THAT THIS IS ON TUESDAY** (not Wednesday).