

**WRIA 55/57**  
**Little Spokane River and Middle Spokane River Watersheds**

***Watershed Implementation Team (WIT) Meeting***

**Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Chattaroy Fire Station, 3219 E. Chattaroy Rd.  
Chattaroy, WA**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance:**

Reanette Boese, *Spokane County*  
Steve Skipworth, *Vera Water & Power*  
Rusty Post, *Dept of Ecology*  
Greg Sweeney, *Eloika Lake Assoc*  
Ty Wick, *SAJB*  
Howard Rowley, *Horseshoe Lake*  
Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions, Facilitator*

Mike Hermanson, *Spokane County*  
Bill Rickard, *City of Spokane Water Dept*  
Rob Lindsay, *Spokane County*  
Walt Edelen, *Spokane Co Conservation District*  
Lindsay Chutas, *Spokane Co Conservation District*  
Dale Gill, *Little Spokane River Citizen*

**1. Approval of Meeting Summary**

- The May meeting summary was reviewed and approved with no changes.

**2. Committee Reports and Updates**

- West Branch LSR
  - ✓ There has not been a meeting to report on; the next meeting will be on July 26. There will be a meeting of Barry Dutton of PBS&J with property owners around Eloika about lake level and wetland restoration on June 8th in Chattaroy.
- Conservation
  - ✓ The City of Spokane water stewardship rebate program for irrigation efficiency is ongoing.
- APC Meetings
  - ✓ The next APC meeting will be on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Liberty Lake Water and Sewer District.
- Instream Flows
  - ✓ State experts presented the state's proposed instream flows for the Spokane River at a recent meeting.
  - ✓ Comments on the proposed flows are due to Ecology by July 16.
  - ✓ Ecology intends to hold meetings with interested persons separately from the WRIA meetings; another meeting will be scheduled for August.
  - ✓ WIT members expressed concern that alternate views have not been fully considered by Ecology, and that the ongoing process proposed by Ecology will not change this.
- Annual Report
  - ✓ The 2009 annual report was approved by the WIT.

**3. WIT Budget for 2010-2011**

- The WIT approved the following projects for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011):
  - ✓ Grant Administration and Coordination: \$7500
  - ✓ Water Demand Forecast: \$10,000
  - ✓ Little Spokane Hydro-geologic Data: \$16,000
  - ✓ Wetland Restoration: \$30,000

- ❑ The costs noted are preliminary estimates, and the estimated total is \$63,500. The WIT budget is \$62,500. The WIT authorized Spokane County to figure out the best place to cut \$1,000 from the cost estimates.
- ❑ The WIT would also like to implement a water conservation project, such as water conservation audits of school facilities. The WIT believes there may be other funding sources for this type of program, and would like to brainstorm project ideas and potential funding sources at a future meeting.

#### **4. Work Plan for Joint WRIA**

- ❑ Walt and Rob are working on an interlocal agreement which will provide funding for Lindsay to work 40 hours per month on WIT activities for WRIAs 55/57 and 56.
- ❑ This will include meeting preparation (agendas, mailings, etc.), facilitation of meetings, and preparation of meeting summaries. Remaining time will be spent on implementation activities.

#### **5. Status of Watershed Plan Implementation Actions**

- ❑ The WIT finalized their review and update of the implementation matrix.
- ❑ Susan will update and distribute the matrix before her contract ends.

#### **6. Water Resource Challenges in WRIA 55/57**

- ❑ The WIT discussed a draft outline of the water challenges facing WRIA 55/57.
- ❑ The draft was prepared by Rob for WIT discussion. It includes a problem definition, and a list of what the WIT has done to date to address the challenges, as well as ideas of what can be done in the future. The WIT actions are divided into a technical actions and policy actions.
- ❑ It was noted that the WIT has a strong influence with policy makers and statements of support for actions or requesting actions often have an effect, though not always.
- ❑ Two key issues facing the region are the determination of water availability by the Regional Health District and the need for new homes to be connected to water purveyors rather than relying on exempt wells. These are two areas where the WIT can and should continue to advocate for changes.
- ❑ Many of the actions taken are fully in accordance with the laws allowing permit-exempt wells, but Ecology has not enforced restrictions on exempt wells in a closed basin.
- ❑ There is a need to research solutions found in other parts of the country. Perhaps members of associations (Association of Counties, trade associations for water purveyors, etc.) could ask their associations to help with some research.
- ❑ The WIT agreed to continue discussing this at a future meeting.

#### **7. Other Issues**

- ❑ The Spokane County Board of Commissioners had authorized the Utilities Division to start the negotiations to purchase the Saltese Flats wetlands property.
- ❑ The draft rule on water reclamation is available for review and comment.
- ❑ An RFQ has been issued for aquatic weed management at Eloika Lake. Funding is provided by Ecology in a grant to the SCCD, in collaboration with the Eloika Lake Association.
- ❑ The WIT kindly thanked Susan for her facilitation services over the past two years. She blushed. Susan thanked the WIT for the opportunity; she will miss working with all the fantastic people on the WIT, and has appreciated the candid and informed discussions of the challenging water resource issues facing the region.

#### **8. Upcoming Meetings**

- ❑ The next WIT meeting will be a joint meeting with WRIA 56 and will be held on Wed. July 7 at 9:00 at the SCCD.