

**WRIA 55/57: Little Spokane River and Middle Spokane River Watersheds
WRIA 56: Hangman/Latah Creek**

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

**Wednesday May 8, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Spokane County Water Resources Center**

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Walt Edelen, <i>SCD</i>	Rob Lindsay, <i>Spokane County Utilities</i>
Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Peter Grunte, <i>Resident, Hangman Creek</i>
Rick Noll, <i>SCD</i>	Amanda Parrish, <i>Lands Council</i>
Howard Rowley, <i>WBLSR (Horseshoe Lake)</i>	Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>
Doug Greenlund, <i>City of Spokane</i>	Harvey Morrison, <i>Trout Unlimited</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Department of Ecology</i>	Doug Rider, <i>SC Water Conservancy Board</i>
Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water District</i>	Greg Sweeney, <i>West Branch LSR/Eloika</i>

The May, 2013 meeting was called to order by Rob Lindsay and the committee members introduced themselves. There was no April 2013 meeting. The March 2013 meeting minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Rob Lindsay made clarifications with respect to his proposed interaction with the county commissioners with respect to funding for future WRIA related activities

There was discussion regarding Mr. Ostheller's comments in March regarding the need to resolve insufficient fire flows in small communities in the in the Hangman watershed. While all agreed it was an important issue, it was recognized it was not directly related to previous or ongoing implementation activities in the watershed. The issue was tabled and additional information will be sought from Mr. Ostheller.

Issues/Announcements/Public Comment:

Greg Sweeney reported the West Branch Little Spokane River committee met on met on April 22. Issues included: high water levels in Diamond Lake for the 3rd year, high water levels in Sacheen Lake, and a discussion of establishing a Lake Management District. Greg also reported that the Spokane Conservation District (SCD), in coordination with the Eloika Lake Association, procured an Aquatic Weed Management Grant for \$75,000 in the 2010-2012 biennium. The SCD recently awarded another \$25,000 to continue addressing Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake.

Walt Edelen of the Spokane Conservation District reported:

1. That the 6th year of the Willow Warriors program is underway. 3 stretches of Hangman Creek have received a total of 6,000 willow whip plantings using volunteers

2. An all-day tour of the Hangman watershed by the bi-state group to highlight projects in the Hangman watershed is scheduled for May 16, 2013.
3. Funding has been acquired by the Spokane Conservation District to evaluate floodplain issues in Spangle.
4. Watershed funding for an irrigation efficiency project in Tekoa fell through, but other potential funds have been identified and the Town has pledged a \$1500 match. The project, if funded, will occur later this summer.

Amanda Parrish reported that the Lands Council will be conducting a presentation with the Sheriff's department at Mirabeau on May 16.

Rob Lindsay of Spokane County reported:

- 1 The West Valley Outdoor Learning Center will be holding an Open House at the Spokane County Water Resource Center on May 11.
- 2 There will be an Open House re: the Columbia River Treaty in Sandpoint Idaho on May 14.
- 3 The Spokane River Forum conference on March 26 and 27 was well attended and that feedback comments received were favorable. Rob thanked all the WIT members that attended and/or participated in the conference.

Updates

1. ***Water Availability Standards presentation to the Spokane County Planning Commission*** – Rob Lindsay made the presentation on April 11. The presentation included a background of watershed planning in Spokane County, the genesis of the Water Availability Standards project, a summary of the project and recommendations, and significant q/a time on various water related issues in the county. Rob expressed thanks for the WIT members that attended. Next step is a presentation to the County commissioners that will also include references to water-related rural development issues in other counties and the status of funding. Rob expressed interest in waiting for a commissioner's presentation until the funding is better understood for FY 14-16.
2. ***USGS Hydrogeology Assessment in the Little Spokane River watershed*** – Rob Lindsay reported the draft report has been completed and is in peer review. The project is on track for a June 30 delivery. Rob noted he would invite the USGS to make a presentation later this summer once the report is finalized.
3. ***Hydrogeology Assessment in the Hangman watershed*** – Rick Noll reported the project is nearing completion and that a presentation will be made at the July, 2013 joint watershed meeting.
4. ***Lake Spokane Shorelines Restoration Project*** – Walt Edelen reported that the Spokane Conservation District prepared a project budget of approximately \$20K for a demonstration project to reduce erosion on a property located on Lake Spokane. The project was deemed too expensive and was not implemented.
5. ***USGS Gauging station contracts and Sequestration Issues*** - The USGS has considered stopping service to a couple real-time stream gauges due to the federal budget sequester. Recent discussions with the USGS indicate funding may not be cut for gauges. Rob Lindsay indicated that despite the outcome Spokane Utilities is still interested in providing funding the Painted Rocks gauge on the Little Spokane River as it is an important location in documenting the discharge of SVRP aquifer water to the Little Spokane River

Regional MOA Development:

A brief discussion of the regional MOA included the recommendation by the Regional MOA group to structure the MOA to include financial participation by the WIT members for administrative costs to develop agendas and prepare summaries. Anticipated participation would be relatively low, \$2,000 or so. Lloyd Brewer of the City of Spokane has developed a draft MOU to include the financial participation, the Regional MOA group will need to review and deliver to the WIT for consideration.

Pending Ecology Grants

Rusty Post of WDOE noted there is little additional information to report regarding budgets and grant proposals. The legislature has not delivered a budget for the 13-15 biennium (FY 14 & 15). He re-stated that we have a very favorable status as a productive WIT in the eyes of Ecology and that if there is any available funding we would compete favorably for those funds. Several grant requests are included in Ecology's budget package.

Upcoming meetings/programs

It was discussed that the July 10, 2013 would include the Hydrogeology presentation for the Hangman watershed. Harvey Morrison suggested we contact Avista in the near future to inquire of the progress of their fish recovery program.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 12th, 2013. It will be held at 10 am at the Spokane Conservation District at 210 N. Havana.