Meeting Summary

WRIA 55 RCW 90.94 Watershed Plan Update Planning Unit Meeting #6 - March 5, 2020

The March 5, 2020 WRIA 55 Planning Unit meeting, held at the Spokane County Water Resource Center, was the sixth meeting convened under this process. The meeting agenda is attached to this summary. The primary topics include:

- Discussion of the Evaluation of Future Exempt Well Demand memorandum and vote to select the demand projection
- Review and discussion of the Summary of Identified Water and Non-Water Offset projects
- Discussion of the Habitat Conditions Report and approach to Net Ecological Benefit Evaluation
- Review and discussion of RCW 90.94 Policy Considerations
- Discussion of Upcoming Grant Applications

Meeting Attendees

Dan Haller, Aspect Consulting Carl Einberger, Aspect Consulting Mike Hermanson, Spokane County Amy Sumner, Spokane County Curtis Johnson, Washington Dept. of Ecology David Marcell, Pend Oreille County Joe Olmsted, Spokane County Farm Bureau Gene St. Godard, WNR Group Casey Flanagan, Spokane Tribe Bruce Wakefield, Colville Tribe Dan Kegley, City of Spokane Tim Murrell, Whitworth Water District Constance Hollard, League of Women Voters Jeff Lawler, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Paul Savage, Spokane Regional Health District Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Association

Amanda Parrish, The Lands Council Todd Dunfield, Inland NW Land Conservancy Mark Lewis, City of Deer Park Lindsay Chutas, Spokane Conservation District Julie Loveall, Stevens County Farm Bureau Kigran Sprague, SHBA Doug Greelund, City of Spokane Suzi Johns, League of Women Voters Lindell Haggin, Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley/Audubon Walt Edelen, Spokane Conservation District Brandy Reynecke, Washington Dept. of Ecology Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe Rob Lindsay, Spokane County Jerry White, Spokane RiverKeeper Erik Johansen, Stevens County

Meeting Summary

Meeting began, 1:06 PM

Dan Haller (Aspect) led the discussion in his role as lead facilitator with facilitation and technical presentation support from Carl Einberger (Aspect).

Key topics addressed in the discussion are summarized below and additional information can be found in the attached presentation.

The meeting began with introductions and a review of the meeting agenda was presented. No additions to the agenda was requested.

The 5-step implementation process for the watershed plan update that was previously presented to the Planning Unit was reviewed:

- Step 1: Define 20-year exempt well consumptive use impacts
- Step 2: Define water-for-water projects at WRIA 55 watershed scale
- Step 3: Define mitigation gaps in time and space at subbasin scale
- Step 4: Define list of Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) projects

Step 5: Determine NEB for WRIA 55, consensus recommendation on watershed plan update & Initiating Governments' approval

Carl Einberger (Aspect) gave a presentation on the Evaluation of Future Exempt Well Demand memorandum distributed to the Planning Unit. He pointed out that the only changes to the memo since the last iteration was the handling of exempt well demand in the Dartford Creek subbasin, where 1) the demand that is projected to occur in the area governed by WAC 173-557 was removed from the subbasin's projected well demand, and 2) the exempt well demand that does not impact Dartford Creek but does impact the Little Spokane River mainstem was reallocated from the Dartford Creek subbasin to a new "Mainstem LSR" subbasin.

Discussion of Future Exempt Well Demand followed with facilitation by Dan Haller. Several questions and comments were discussed:

Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) asked about the evapotranspiration rates used in the calculation for exempt well demand, and if the comments he provided on the original demand memo related to that issue had been addressed. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) responded that the methodology used to calculate demand were consistent with Ecology guidance and also consistent with actual evapotranspiration rates measured at the Bureau of Reclamation Agrimet station at Deer Park. He indicated that factors related to climate change will be included in the Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) evaluation. Brandy Reynecke (Ecology) asked Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) if he thought the demand estimate was grossly undervalued. Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) said that he believes so because a study indicated that there is going to be a change in cloud cover and evapotranspiration may be significantly higher during the 20-year time period being considered. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) reiterated that the demand numbers were calculated using the method recommended by Ecology for the watershed planning process and that ground and surface water model developed for this process is the most robust way to account for climate change factors such as changes in temperature and precipitation. He noted that climate change scenarios done with the Little Spokane ground and surface water model indicate a 10% increase in potential evapotranspiration which will be included in the NEB evaluation. Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) expressed concern that the model did not include uncertainty, and that more conservatism is needed to keep water in the creek.

Carl Einberger (Aspect) noted that the watershed plan will have an adaptive management component that which could include a means to deal with changing information and later incorporate new demand estimates.

This sparked conversation around the need for a solid adaptive management process. Greg Sweeney (Eloika Lake Assoc.) agreed that adaptive management is the best approach to resolve this, because it's difficult to have a handle on things that change. Jerry White (Riverkeeper) agreed that there needs to be a robust adaptive management mechanism to account for change. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) also agreed for the need to have adaptive management, and also asked for clarification regarding the changes to the Dartford Creek subbasin.

Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) and Carl Einberger (Aspect) both addressed Casey Flanagan's concerns, pointing out that the Dartford Creek subbasin boundary that is being used in this process is larger than what actually drains to Dartford Creek, and includes and area governed by another instream flow rule – WAC 173-557. The change that was made was to 1.) remove exempt well demand projected to occur in the area governed by WAC 173-557, the boundary of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, and 2.) separate the exempt wells that are within the actual surface water drainage of Dartford Creek and those that are within the subbasin boundary we have been using but are not in the actual surface water drainage of Dartford Creek. Those wells were put into a new classification called Little Spokane Mainstem, and not removed from the total demand.

At this time, Dan Haller (Aspect) recommended circling back to the exempt well demand after discussing the proposed projects, as it may provide more context for the discussion.

Carl Einberger (Aspect) then proceeded with a presentation to review the Identified Water and Non-Water Offset Projects described in the memorandum distributed to the Planning Unit. Carl Einberger reminded the group that the memorandum is a summary of those projects he received during a call for projects, and that it includes both water offset projects and non-water or habitat projects. The presentation briefly covered the projects. Discussion of the projects followed with facilitation by Carl Einberger. Several questions and comments were discussed:

<u>Water Rights Acquisitions</u>: Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) asked how the acre-feet for the water rights off-sets were determined. Carl Einberger (Aspect) clarified that this is done during the purchasing process based on the transfer for the consumptive use.

<u>Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) projects</u>: Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) also asked how the operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for the MAR projects is being covered. Carl Einberger (Aspect) requested that this discussion be held off as it will be discussed later in the context of all the projects.

Eloika Lake Surface Water Storage: Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) indicated he was interested in understanding if required instream flows can be maintained if water is stored in Eloika Lake. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) noted that the historic data indicates the water elevation on the lake almost always reaches an elevation of 1907, and holding that lake level longer than currently occurs for later release is possible while still meeting required instream flows. Dan Haller (Aspect) added that even in drought years it is still possible to hold water at that elevation (1907 ft.) to meet minimum flows. Greg Sweeney (Eloika Lake Assoc.) also noted that additional storage scenarios,

such as holding the elevation higher, are possible. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) agreed that the 1907 ft. elevation is a minimum and evaluating other scenarios will be part of additional evaluation of the project. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) asked if there is, or will be, an EIS for the project because she has concerns regarding other potential impacts of the project. Her concerns include redband trout requiring more than minimum flows for spawning; downstream impacts such as releasing water from the lake that may not meet temperature or dissolved oxygen requirements for redband; and fish passage impacts from the control structure. Carl Einberger (Aspect) and Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) clarified that the County is seeking grant funds for additional studies as there are a lot of unanswered questions about the project. This will allow for looking at the project in more detail before any design/construction moves forward. The Conservation District asked about the potential O&M costs and how these would be covered. Carl Einberger (Aspect) asked that this discussion be held off as it will be discussed later in the context of all the projects.

Whitworth Water District Source Water Exchange: Tim Murrell (Whitworth Water District) notified the group that a project description has been provided on the table by the sign-in sheets. He stated that it describes how Whitworth is looking at the benefits of shifting groundwater withdrawals from wells completed in Little Spokane River aquifers to wells completed in the lower unit of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie aquifer. They are working with EarthFX to use the ground and surface water model developed for the Little Spokane River and are in consultation with Patrick Cabbage at Ecology.

<u>Spokane Conservation District Dartford Creek projects</u>: Amanda Parrish (Lands Council) asked whether the Dartford project is located on private property. Lindsay Chutas (Spokane Conservation District) clarified that this and all other projects proposed by her organization are on private property.

<u>Pend Oreille Conservation District Stockton Project</u>: During the presentation, Carl Einberger (Aspect) noted that this project was not included in the memo, but that it would be added.

Opportunistic Projects: Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) asked if there was a proposal for a fish passage barrier study. Carl Einberger (Aspect) clarified that there is one and it will be added to the memo. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) indicated that she had discussions regarding the need to complete habitat surveys to identify more projects, and that she could submit a proposal on this concept. Carl Einberger (Aspect) agreed this proposal could be incorporated at this stage. Dan Haller (Aspect) also indicated that the group could develop tools that allow for identifying projects to later incorporate, which can be part of the adaptive management process.

After discussion of projects Carl Einberger (Aspect) discussed the Little Spokane River Habitat Conditions Report that was drafted by the County and includes background information on existing conditions. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) noted that the report will provide a basis for the Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) evaluation as it provides baseline to demonstrate how the projects could improve conditions. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) commented that she thought this was a well-written document, but that she would like to see additional figures for fecal coliform and sediment concerns from the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Brandy Reynecke (Ecology) asked if comments on the document could be submitted. Carl Einberger and Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) agreed that comments on the document could be submitted to Carl Einberger who would pass them onto the County.

Dan Haller (Aspect) proceeded with a presentation on the Net Ecological Benefits (NEB) evaluation. He reviewed Ecology's guidance regarding the NEB Evaluation and indicated that the water off-set projects are more than the demand. He further clarified that water-for-water is met at the WRIA scale and in the majority of subbasins. In addition, the evaluation of NEB would include non-water/habitat projects. Dan Haller stressed that it is critical that the planning unit come to a consensus that the watershed plan update results in a net ecological benefit.

During the presentation, Dan Haller (Aspect) noted that there are several variables to consider in adaptive management, and rules can be incorporated to implement changes over time. Jerry White (Riverkeeper) commented that a climate change variable should be added to the presented list of variables to consider (see presentation). Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) agreed. Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) added that there should be an evaluation of flows in the stream over time to determine any changes and that more may need to be done as a part of climate change adaptations. Greg (Eloika Lake Assoc.) commented that he can see the potential for negative impacts where there is less water for water in a subbasin, particularly where more development in an impacted subbasin could impact downstream flows.

At this point, Dan Haller (Aspect) called for a break. Break 2:26PM – 2:40PM PST

After the break, Dan Haller facilitated the selection of the exempt well demand and acceptance of the proposed projects. He indicated this will be the time for formality in voting on the two decisions put to the Planning Unit:

- To select the demand projection to incorporate into the plan
- To approve the proposed project list presented in the memo with the additions discussed in the meeting

Dan Haller asked that, during voting, Planning Unit members state their name, organization and decision and that the public abstain from the discussion at this time. He clarified that members of the public would be given an opportunity to make comments.

Dan Haller continued outlining the first decision regarding the exempt well demand. He explained there are two growth scenarios: 1. Historical growth rates for Pend Oreille and Stevens County and the Office of Financial Management projection for Spokane County, 2. Historical growth rates for all three counties. He also indicated that an additional 10% could be added to address the uncertainty associated with climate change, as discussed earlier in the meeting. He requested that each Planning Unit member vote in support of one of the growth scenarios, and whether 10% should be added to address climate change uncertainty.

The following persons supported the higher demand number with the addition of a 10 percent buffer, and added, through comments, that there should be an incorporation of adaptive management to review supply and demand:

Mark Lewis, City of Deer Park Tim Murrell, Whitworth Water District Dan Kegley, City of Spokane Casey Flanagan, Spokane Tribe Jerry White, Spokane Riverkeeper Suze Johns, League of Women Voters
Greg Sweeney, Eloika Lake Association
Bruce Wakefield, Colville Tribe
Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe
Amanda Parrish, Lands Council
Jeff Lawler, WDFW
Walt Edelen, Spokane Conservation District
Erik Johansen, Stevens County (*needs to confirm with Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner)
Josh Kerns, Spokane County

Lindell Haggin, Friends of Little Spokane River Valley

It was also noted that there are enough identified projects to offset much greater than the higher demand with an additional 10%.

The following persons supported the higher demand number as outlined in the memo:

Joe Olmsted, Spokane County Farm Bureau Julie Loveall, Stevens County Farm Bureau

Following the vote, Dan Haller (Aspect) noted that the representative from Pend Oreille County is not present and that confirmation of their vote will be needed. Then he reminded the group that the goal is to have consensus but that if consensus cannot be reached, the initiating governments must vote on the issue and it will be Ecology's decision to determine whether local interests are accounted for in the vote. Dan Haller (Aspect) provided the opportunity for discussion to see whether the group can come to a consensus.

Julie Loveall (Stevens County Farm Bureau) commented that climate change can go in so many directions, and she did not believe addressing climate change is within the charge set by the legislature for this process; that this is not intended to be a comprehensive update. However, she added that if the process were to end up in rulemaking, no one would be happy, so she would be willing to abstain from the vote in the interest of consensus. Joe Olmstead (Spokane County Farm Bureau) indicated his concern is that tax payer money is likely going to pay for the projects and that going with a higher demand would require more money to off-set. Brandy Reynecke (Ecology) commented that she is not sure of the basis of the concern regarding tax payer money; she pointed out that the projects more than cover the projected demand and that changing the demand number by 10 percent is unlikely to change this. Dan Haller (Aspect) explained that assumptions and uncertainty are built within the whole process. He noted that there is a 30 percent difference between the low and high water demand projections in the memo, and agreed with Brandy Reynecke's (Ecology) assessment that a 10 percent buffer on top of the higher projection is already covered by the identified projects. Dan Haller also pointed out that the adaptive management component could be used to assess supply and demand estimates, which could result in increases or decreases over time.

Following this discussion, Joe Olmstead (Spokane County Farm Bureau) and Julie Loveall (Stevens County Farm Bureau) agreed to go along with the majority decision in the spirit of reaching consensus.

Dan Haller (Aspect) followed up by asking the group if there were any concerns regarding the proposed project list. Amanda Parrish (Lands Council) voiced concern that the Eloika Lake project accounts for more than half of the water for water offsets, and for the potential consequences if this project did not move forward. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) reiterated concerns with the Eloika Lake project's potential downstream impacts. Ken Merrill (Kalispel Tribe) commented that he's concerned about general uncertainty with projects. Dan Haller (Aspect) asked whether these or other concerns would require removing a project from the list, or if the group supports moving forward with the list of identified projects as described with the additions discussed during the meeting. The Planning Unit members unanimously supported the identified projects.

Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) indicated that addressing uncertainty around project implementation will be part of the NEB evaluation and will require the judgement of the Planning Unit members. He indicated that a discussion on uncertainty is to be added to the NEB Evaluation. Mike Hermanson further clarified that the map (see presentation) is basically a summary of the plan update and NEB Evaluation and wanted to know if there are any specific expectations that individuals wanted to express to help in the preparation of the draft plan update that will be distributed to the group 2 weeks prior to the next meeting.

Dan Haller (Aspect) asked the group to raise their hands if they believe the plan is headed in the right direction. A majority of hands were raised. Dan Haller then asked the group to raise their hands if they believe the plan is not on the right track. No hands were raised. Dan Haller next asked the group to express any remaining concerns at this time so that they can be resolved, since the next meeting will be a discussion of the draft plan.

Jerry White (Riverkeeper) expressed concern that he is still unsure where the concrete pieces of the adaptive management mechanism will be within the plan. He commented that this is where his organization will likely spend their energy in reviewing the plan, and he would like to see an environmental monitoring piece included in the adaptive management. Dan Haller (Aspect) indicated that monitoring is likely completed as part of the projects. Suzi Johns (League of Women Voters) asked about funding, whether there's a set amount set aside to use for the projects or whether there must be a request for funding. Dan Haller (Aspect) and Brandy Reynecke (Ecology) explained the funding mechanism that is available for projects through Ecology. Constance Hollard (League of Women Voters) asked whether the projects should be prioritized due to limited funding. Dan Haller (Aspect) indicated that some other watershed planning groups have complicated ranking systems to prioritize projects. However, there is no need to do this here since all identified projects are being pursued. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) added that prioritization happens on multiple levels and that most projects rise to the top because of circumstances at the time.

Doug Greenlund (City of Spokane) asked whether there is funding for O&M and for continued adaptive management. Dan Haller (Aspect) clarified that there is no long-term O&M funding set aside by the legislature at this time. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) added that the County is estimating O&M for projects and looking at potential funding mechanisms. Josh Kerns (Spokane County) further added that the County is committed to funding the MAR project at Bear Creek but is consulting with legal counsel to determine what long-term solutions are available. Erik Johansen (Stevens County) indicated that discussions around funding are also occurring within Stevens County, and that there are still some questions regarding the potential use for the \$500 fee being assessed for building permits associated

with permit exempt wells in WRIA 55. Brandy Reynecke (Ecology) added that the question regarding the use of this fee has been posed to others in Ecology, but with no direction yet.

Dan Haller (Aspect) noted that there are three policy recommendations under RCW 90.94 that the Planning Unit must decide whether to implement. These include: 1) Recommendations for modification to fees established under this subsection; 2) Standards for water use quantities that are less than authorized under RCW 90.44.050 or more or less than authorized under subsection (5) of this section for withdrawals exempt from permitting; 3) Specific conservation requirements for new water users to be adopted by local or state permitting authorities; or 4) Other approaches to manage water resources for a water resource inventory area or portions thereof.

Dan Haller (Aspect) noted that given the projects to be included in the plan, policy recommendations do not appear necessary to achieve NEB in WRIA 55.

Jerry White (Riverkeeper) commented that he would support the policy regarding conservation requirements for new water users. Erik Johansen (Stevens County) noted that he would not want to see such requirements but would support educating the public on BMPs and have these implemented through volunteer stewardship.

Dan Haller (Aspect) asked the group whether there are Planning Unit members planning to submit applications for Streamflow Restoration Grants which are due on March 31, 2020. Mike Hermanson (Spokane County) indicated the County will be submitting the Bear Creek MAR project and Eloika Lake project for funding. Amanda Parrish (Lands Council) stated that their project is not ready for this round of funding and that a site visit is upcoming; they may submit a proposal for a 319 (Water Quality) grant. Jeff Lawler (WDFW) indicated his agency is considering submission of a barrier survey project. Casey Flanagan (Spokane Tribe) commented that she is unsure if Spokane Tribe will be applying for funding; she will discuss internally to confirm. Dan Haller (Aspect) mentioned that funding status needs to be identified in the plan, so any updates are appreciated.

Dan Haller (Aspect) asked whether the group would support the idea that the meeting summary could be used by any project proponents in funding requests as a demonstration that their project is supported by the Planning Unit. There was unanimous support for this.

Dan Haller (Aspect) in his capacity as facilitator asked if there were any further items. Curtis Johnson (Ecology) notified the group that the draft Little Spokane River TMDL for dissolved oxygen, pH and phosphorus should be made available for public comment soon. Suzi Johns (League of Women Voters) thanked several people in the room for participating in an informational meeting for the League of Women Voters.

Meeting adjourned, 3:35 PM PST



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Project Summary of Preliminary Hydrogeologic Data Whitworth Water District (WWD) System 8 Water Right Transfer

WWD would like to assess the benefits of a proposal to transfer up to 400 acre-feet of municipal water currently being withdrawn from wells in the Little Spokane River (LSR) watershed (see Figure 1) to WWD wells withdrawing from the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) aquifer. This could be accomplished by requesting Ecology to change the point of withdrawal of 400 acre-feet from the WWD System 8 to the WWD Systems 1-3 located in the SVRP aquifer. The same result could be accomplished by requesting a mitigated water right permit through Ecology.

Ecology requested some preliminary data to determine if potential impacts warrant this transfer, including:

- 1. what effects to the LSR flows would occur if the proposed 400 acre-feet of water was removed from the WRIA 55 water budget, and;
- 2. what are the effects on the Spokane River if this water was transferred to the SVRP aquifer wells

WWD has conducted a preliminary review that shows an immediate net ecological benefit to flows within the LSR. The attached **Figure 2** depicts the effects on the LSR at three gauging stations assuming 400 acrefeet was removed from the System 8 wells. This analysis was conducted by Earth FX using the WRIA 55 model. As shown on **Figure 2**, a benefit of two to four cubic-feet per seond can be observed in the river during the low flow months.

WWD will need to address potential impacts to the Spokane River. **Figure 3** presents a graph showing the impacts to the Spokane River if 400 acre-feet were used from WWD wells in Systems 1-3. This analysis assumed the water would be pumped during the summer months where maximum daily demand is required, and over the entire irrigation season. As shown on this graph, at the end of the irrigation season, a 0.0267 cfs (11.98 gpm) impact to the Spokane River would occur. This amount would require mitigation.

WWD would like to conduct additional feasibility of this proposed project. Funding of this project would need to include further assessment and modeling of the transfer. Further refinement of potential beneficial impacts to the LSR from the reduction of withdrawals, as well as impacts due to the increased pumping from the SVRP aquifer, would be required. WWD would continue to communicate with Ecology relative to the transfer of water from LSR aquifer to SVRP aquifer under the authorization of RCW 90.03.380. An engineering assessment will also be necessary to determine the infrastructure improvements required for the transfer of the water right withdrawals.

WWD believes this project would help enhance the flows of the LSR. It is for that purpose that WWD requests support from the WRIA 55 group to seek further funding to determine the feasibility of this project.

Figure 1: WWD System 8 Well Locations

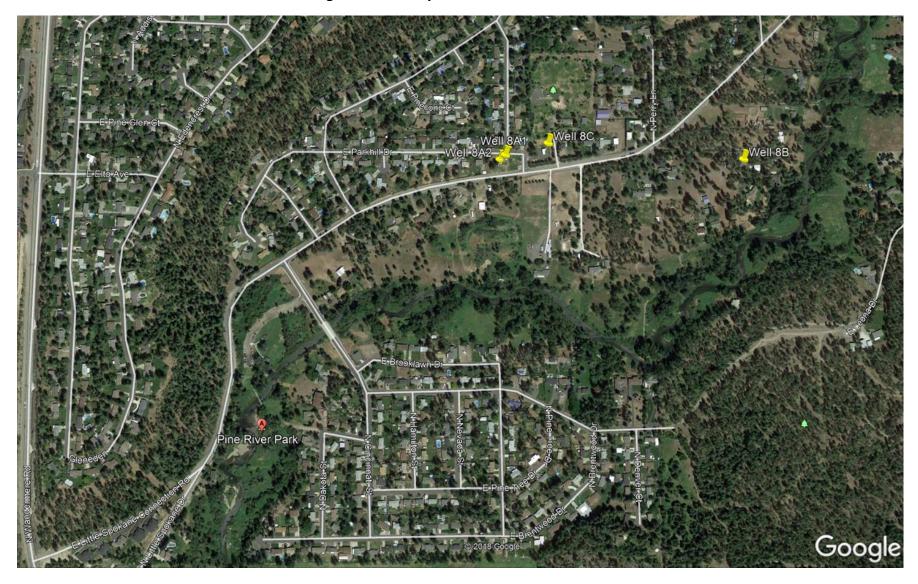


Figure 2: Flow Graph showing flow improvements in LSR if 400 acre-feet is transferred from System 8 wells.

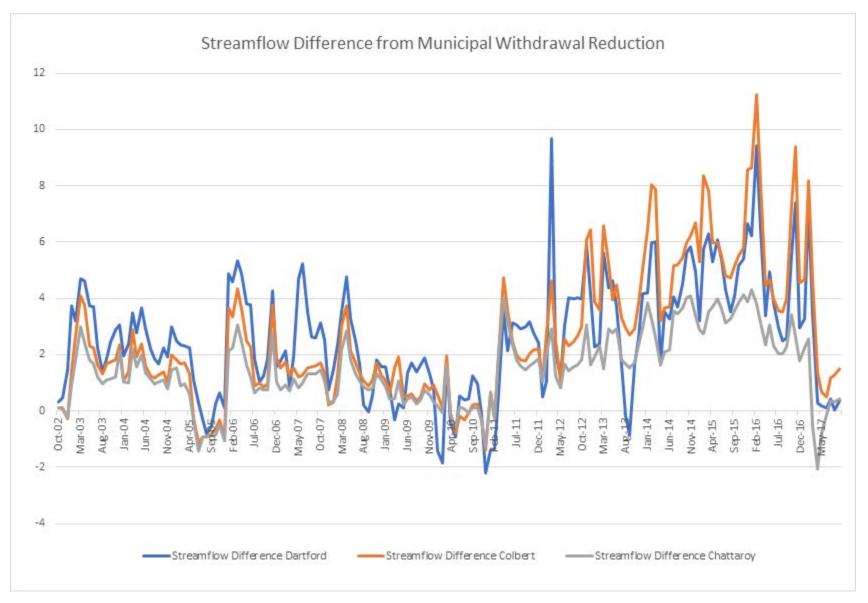
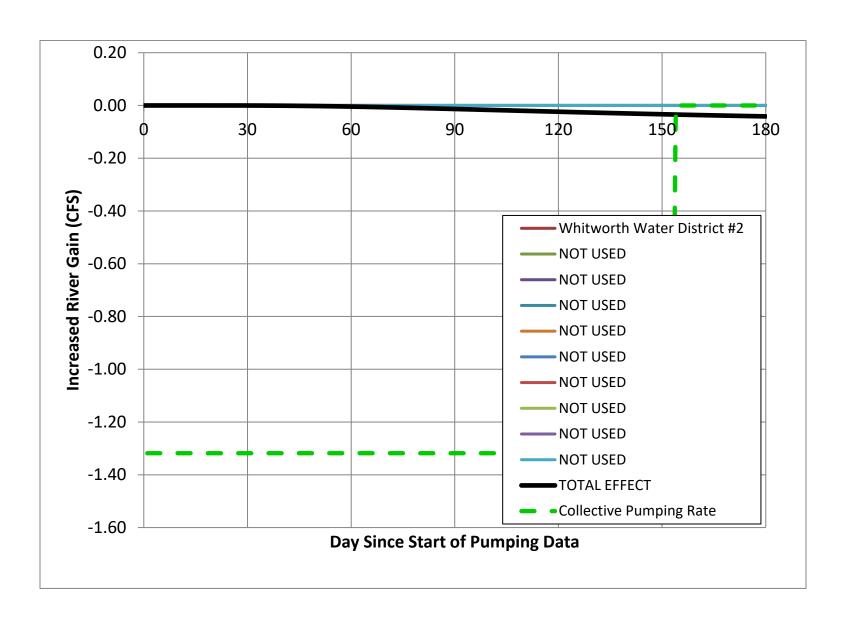
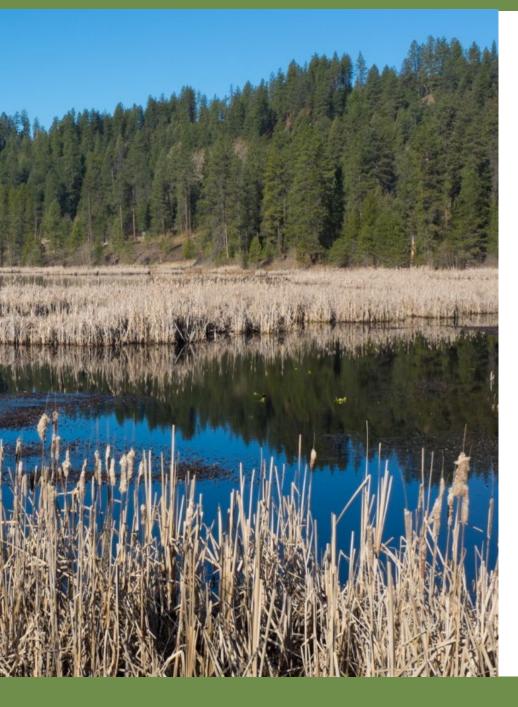


Figure 3: Impacts to Spokane River should 400 acre-feet be transferred to Well#4 of WWD SVRP Aquifer wells.





Planning Unit Meeting #6 March 5, 2020

WRIA 55
(Little Spokane)
RCW 90.94
Watershed
Planning

Presented by



Introductions

- Lead Facilitator: Dan Haller, PE, Aspect Consulting
 - dhaller@aspectconsulting.com
- Technical support and facilitation: Carl Einberger, LHG, Aspect Consulting
 - ceinberger@aspectconsulting.com
- Lead agency: Spokane County Environmental Services
 - Mike Hermanson, Water Resources Manager
 - mhermanson@spokanecounty.org
- Initiating Governments: Spokane County, Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, City of Spokane, and Whitworth Water District

Meeting #5 Agenda

- Accept Demand Memorandum as Final and Vote on Selection of Demand Projection (1:10 to 1:30)
- Review of Summary of Identified Water and Non-Water Offset Projects (1:30 to 2:00)
 - Water Offset Projects
 - Habitat Conditions Report
 - Non-Water Offset Projects
 - Opportunistic Projects

Meeting #5 Agenda

- NEB Evaluation Discussion (2:00 to 3:00)
- Discussion of RCW 90.94 Policy Considerations (3:00 to 3:30)
- Grant Applications (3:30 to 3:40)
- Roundtable Discussion (3:40 to 4:00)

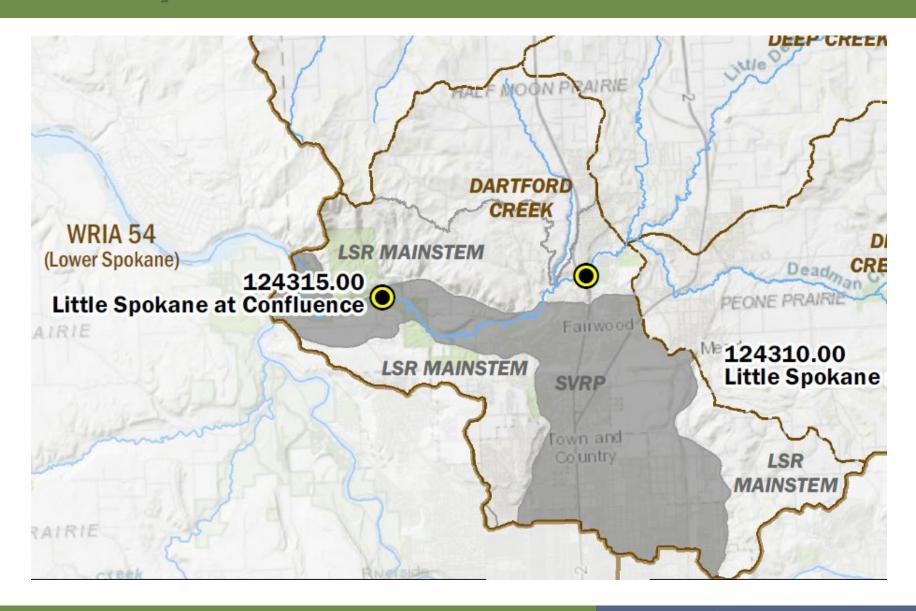
5-Step Implementation Process

- Step 1: Define 20-year exempt well consumptive use impacts (From Updated Exempt Well Demand Study: 1601 afy – 2127 afy/ 2.2 – 2.9 cfs)
- Step 2: Define water-for-water projects at WRIA 55 watershed scale
- Step 3: Define mitigation gaps in time and space at subbasin scale
- Step 4: Define list of Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) projects
- Step 5: Evaluate NEB for WRIA 55, local approval, submit for Ecology determination/plan adoption

Exempt Well Demand

- March 2, 2020 Demand Memo Update Distributed to Planning Unit
- Dartford Creek subbasin analysis modified from previous draft:
 - 1) Removed demand projected to occur in the area governed by WAC 173-557.
 - Permit-exempt wells in this area are regulated separately, and Ecology has established a water bank to mitigate for new uses.
 - 2) Separated demand from exempt wells in the Dartford subbasin that do not impact Dartford Creek, but do impact the mainstem Little Spokane River.
 - New demand category added for LSR mainstem

Exempt Well Demand



Exempt Well Demand

Table 13. Total Projected Combined Indoor/Outdoor Consumptive Use in WRIA 55, 20-Year Planning Horizon (with <u>Dartford Creek Demand Modifications</u>)

	With Spokane County Medium OFM Projection (Lower Growth Rate Scenario)		With Spokane County Historical Growth Rate Projection (Higher Growth Rate Scenario)	
WRIA 55 Subbasins	Projected Consumptive Use (afy)	Projected Consumptive Use (cfs)	Projected Consumptive Use (afy)	Projected Consumptive Use (cfs)
Dartford Creek	88.68	0.122	123.96	0.171
Mainstem LSR	118.24	0.163	164.96	0.228
Dragoon Creek	347.90	0.481	453.20	0.626
Deadman-Peone Creek	344.14	0.475	480.07	0.663
Beaver Creek	159.47	0.220	215.63	0.298
Otter Creek	249.91	0.345	297.27	0.411
West Branch	73.44	0.101	86.04	0.119
Little Spokane/Deer Creek	171.17	0.236	238.72	0.330
Little Deep Creek	48.27	0.067	67.48	0.093
Total	1,601.21	2.212	2,127.33	2.938

Vote on Exempt Well Demand Finalization

- Lower Demand Estimate (1,601 afy/2.2 cfs)
 - Uses the OFM projection and is consistent with the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan
 - Less conservative and does not have a safety factor
- Higher Demand Estimate (2,127 afy/2.9 cfs)
 - More conservative provides a safety factor
 - Consistent approach across all three counties
- Actual demand could be addressed through an adaptive management review

Summary of Identified Offset Projects





Types of Offset Projects

Water Offset Projects

- Water right purchases
- Managed aquifer recharge
- Surface water storage
- Source exchange

Non-Water Offset Projects

- Fish barrier removal
- Floodplain restoration
- Habitat restoration/enhancement
- Land Acquisition

Opportunistic Projects

Water right purchases, fish barriers, habitat restoration

Water Offset Projects – Water Right Purchases

- Water Right G3-23099C (G3-CV2-SP52)
 - Expected 50 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek and the Little Spokane River.
- Water Right G3-*02228CWRIS
 - Expected 100 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek (in both the Beaver Creek and Dragoon Creek subbasins) and the Little Spokane River.
- Water Right G3-*01844CWRIS
 - Expected 100 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon
 Creek and the Little Spokane River.
- Water Right S3-*12724CWRIS
 - Expected 50 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek and the Little Spokane River.

Water Offset Projects – Water Right Purchases

Water Right S3-*06812CWRIS

 Expected 50 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek and the Little Spokane River.

Water Right CG3-24214(A)

 Owned by Spokane County with Trust Water Right Agreement in place. 255.4 afy of benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek (in both the Beaver Creek and Dragoon Creek subbasins) and the Little Spokane River.

Water Right G3-20511C

Owned by Spokane County with Trust Water Right
 Agreement in place. 28 afy of benefit to flows in Dragoon
 Creek and the Little Spokane River.

- 9 MAR sites identified for inclusion in watershed plan addendum
- 2 sites have field investigations and preliminary design of MAR facilities completed
- 180 afy of streamflow benefit per site expected
- Estimated costs: \$600K for implementation per site,\$20K for O&M

Milan Road/Bear Creek

- Field investigations and preliminary design complete
- Little Spokane/Bear Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Bear Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Dry Creek – Site 1

- Field investigations and preliminary design complete
- Otter Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Dry Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

- Otter Creek Site 3
 - Selection based on optimization analysis
 - Otter Creek subbasin
 - Benefit to instream flows in Otter Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

County Park/Last Chance Road

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- West Branch subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Otter Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Little Deep Creek – Site 1

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- Little Deep Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Little Deep Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Deadman Creek

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- Deadman Creek/Peone Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Deadman Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Dry Creek – Site 2

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- Otter Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Dry Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Dragoon Creek DNR

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- Dragoon Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Dragoon Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Bear Creek

- Selection based on optimization analysis
- Otter Creek subbasin
- Benefit to instream flows in Bear Creek and the mainstem of the Little Spokane River.

Water Offset Projects – Storage/Source Exchange

Eloika Lake Surface Water Storage

- Storage through design and construction of an outlet control structure capable of maintaining higher lake levels for a longer period each summer
- □ Expected 1,400 afy of benefit to instream flows in West Branch subbasin and the Little Spokane River.
- Project cost estimates currently under development.

Whitworth Water District Source Exchange

- Proposed transfer of up to 400 afy of municipal water from wells in WRIA 55 to an equivalent amount withdrawing from the SVRP aquifer
- Expected 400 afy of benefit to instream flows in the Little Spokane River.
- Investigation work estimated to be \$100K, construction costs pending.

Habitat Conditions Report

 Spokane County has prepared a summary of current aquatic habitat conditions that is intended to support the NEB evaluation

The report provides:

- Distribution of redband trout
- Known areas of poor riparian habitat
- Identified fish passage barriers
- Intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead/redband
- Potential wetland restoration sites
- Intrinsic potential habitat for chinook

- Deer Creek Fish Barrier Removal
 - Little Spokane/Deer Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Spokane Conservation District
 - Replacement of impassible fish barrier on Deer Creek
 - □ Project cost through implementation estimated at \$125K
- Dartford Creek Floodplain Restoration Project
 - Dartford Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Spokane Conservation District
 - Reconnection of floodplain, fish barrier fix, riparian vegetation improvements.
 - Project cost through implementation estimated at \$60K

- Dartford Creek Habitat Restoration Project
 - Dartford Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Spokane Conservation District
 - 320 feet of stream native habitat restoration along a 50 foot buffer.
 - Project cost through implementation estimated at \$17K
- Westover Habitat Restoration Project
 - Otter Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Pend Oreille Conservation District
 - Placement of large woody debris in Little Spokane River and riparian vegetation restoration
 - Project cost through implementation estimated at \$46K

- Cygiel Habitat Restoration Project
 - Otter Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Pend Oreille Conservation District
 - Installation of 850 feet of livestock fencing along Little
 Spokane River and riparian vegetation restoration
 - □ Project cost through implementation estimated at \$7.5K
- Stockton Habitat Restoration Project
 - Otter Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by Pend Oreille Conservation District
 - Placement of large woody debris along 2,200 ft of Little
 Spokane River and riparian vegetation restoration
 - □ Project cost through implementation estimated at \$37.5K
 - Note: Not in draft memo, but will be added to final version

- Deadman Creek Beaver Dam Analogue Project
 - Deadman Creek/Peone Creek subbasin
 - Proposed by The Lands Council
 - Installation of beaver dam analogues (BDAs) in the creek to trap sediment, slow flow, and riparian vegetation restoration
 - Project cost through implementation estimated at \$25K, and \$1.5K of O&M for 2 years
- Waikiki Springs Habitat Preservation Project
 - Little Spokane mainstem near Dartford Creek
 - Proposed by Inland NW Land Conservancy/Spokane Tribe
 - Purchase of 95 acres of undeveloped floodplain for habitat protection, future salmon reintroduction, and public access
 - Project cost for land purchase estimated at \$1.6M

Opportunistic Projects

- Seeking new opportunities for water right purchases.
 - Additional water right owners may express interest in selling water rights in the future.
- Future identification of culvert/fish barrier projects.
 - A comprehensive study of fish barriers in WRIA 55 has not been conducted. Future work could support identification of key fish barriers to focus on for removal or modification.
 - WDFW has submitted a project proposal for a fish barrier study in WRIA 55.
- Future identification of culvert/fish barrier projects.
 - Conservation Districts, the Lands Council, and the Spokane Tribe have noted that habitat restoration projects are often opportunistic in nature based on the timing of landowner interest.

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Final Guidance for Determining Net Ecological Benefit

GUID-2094 Water Resources Program
Guidance

July 31, 2019 Publication 19-11-079

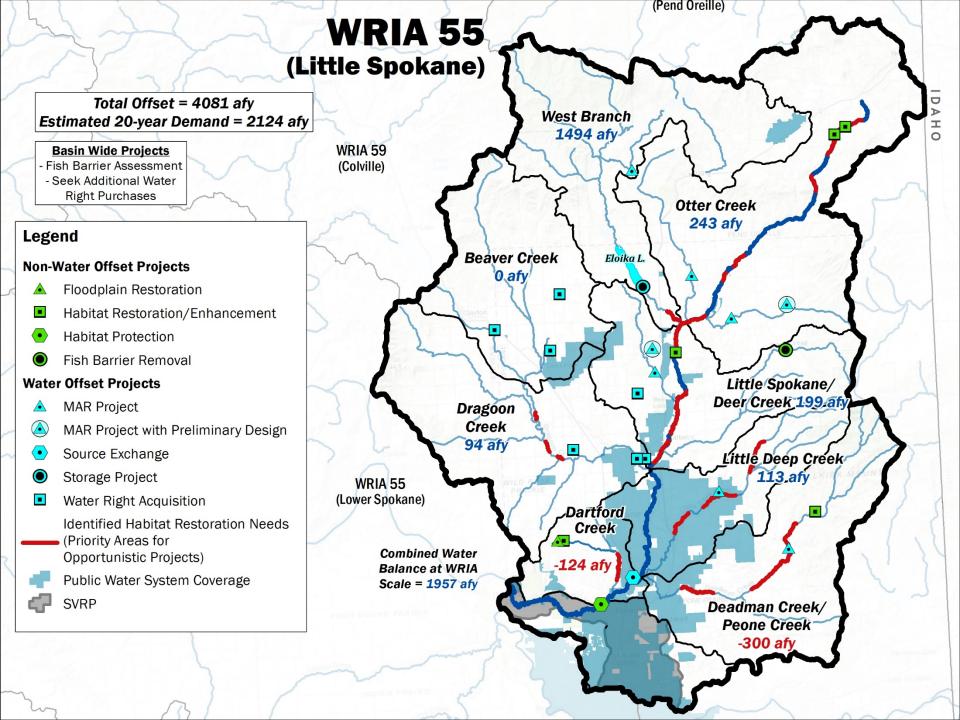
- Ecology GUID-2094 recommends the following steps:
 - 1) Compare total projected impact from new consumptive water use in all subbasins with total amount of water offset benefits generated by all projects in the WRIA
 - 2) Compare projected impacts and any offsets within each subbasins. All impacts at a minimum must be offset at the WRIA level, the evaluation should determine if the plan has succeeded in offsetting the impacts at the WRIA level. There may be instances where the amount of offsets provided in certain subbasins will be more or less than the projected new consumptive water use. This is acceptable because the offsets are provided within the WRIA and in sufficient quantities.

- Ecology GUID-2094 recommends the following steps:
 - 3) Identify projects that provide the additional benefits to instream resources beyond those necessary to offset the impacts from new consumptive water use within the WRIA boundary.
 - 4) Adaptive management conditions can also be included to address uncertainty.
 - 5) The evaluation should include a clear statement of the planning group's finding that the combined components of the plan do or do not achieve a NEB.

- Likelihood of offset project implementation
- Subbasin demand/offset match
- Adaptive management
 - 5-year cycle suggested
 - Variables to consider:
 - Increases or decreases in actual new exempt well demand
 - Availability of project funding for implementation of proposed offset projects
 - Identification of new potential water and non-water offset projects - opportunistic projects (Future landowner interest in selling water rights or habitat restoration projects; future studies such as fish barrier investigations etc.)
- Approach to addressing O&M funding

Water Offset Project Distribution vs. Estimated Demand

- All water offset projects combined provide a mitigation benefit of 4,081 afy
- High estimate for basinwide demand is 2,124 afy
- The combined water balance at the WRIA scale indicates a basin wide surplus of 1,957 afy.
- 6 of the WRIA 55 subbasins have sufficient offset supplies to meet estimated 20-year permit-exempt well demand
- 2 of the WRIA 55 subbasins have deficits in water offset supply (Deadman Creek/Peone Creek and Dartford Creek subbasins)



Discussion of RCW 90.94 Policy Considerations

- RCW 90.94.020(4)(d) The watershed plan may include:
 - (i) Recommendations for modification to fees established under this subsection
 - (ii) Standards for water use quantities that are less than authorized under RCW 90.44.050 or more or less than authorized under subsection (5) of this section for withdrawals exempt from permitting
 - (iii) Specific conservation requirements for new water users to be adopted by local or state permitting authorities
 - (iv) Other approaches to manage water resources for a water resource inventory area or portions thereof

Streamflow Restoration Grant Applications

- Spokane County is submitting two grant applications in March:
 - Eloika Lake Storage Project: funding request through final design work
 - Milan Road/Bear Creek MAR Project: funding request through construction and implementation
- Are other streamflow grant applications pending from Planning Unit members?
- Are other funding sources being pursued by Planning Unit members?
- Request for Planning Unit endorsement of grant application submittals

Meeting Close

