

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE:

*****Afternoon Meeting*** Wednesday, June 16th, 2010, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM,
at Lincoln County Public Works Department in Davenport.
Minutes from the WRIA 53 Monthly Meeting**

**LOWER LAKE ROOSEVELT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT
Lincoln County Public Works - Davenport, WA
May 19th, 2010 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: (18)

Gene St.Godard, WNR Group	Fred Bell, City of Davenport
Courtney Harder, Lincoln County Planning	Rusty Post, Ecology
Molly Reid, GSI Water Solutions	Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County Planning
Jaime Short, Ecology	David Lundgren, LCCD
Dean White, LCCD	George Livingston, Deer Meadows
Roger Savage, Resident	Ellen Savage, Campbell Bay Water Assoc
Dennis Maier, Lakeview-Wilbur	Jerry Vaughan, Lincoln County Planning Comm.
George Rodick, Resident	Tom Busker, Lincoln County Planning Comm.
Scott Hutsell, Lincoln Co. Comm.	Scott Barr, Landowner

SESSION CALLED TO ORDER:

Gene St.Godard with WNR Group, facilitator for the WRIA 53 Planning Group, opened the meeting at 9:15 AM. Gene thanked the group for attending the monthly Planning Unit meeting for WRIA 53. Gene gave a brief overview of how the meeting would be conducted, and then began the meeting by making sure everyone had a copy of the agenda for the meeting. Gene asked if any additions to the agenda were needed. Molly requested that the grant research update be move to the beginning of the meeting. With no objections, the change was made.

Introduction of Participants

Gene opened the floor for people attending the meeting to introduce themselves and who they were representing. Introductions were made around the room. It appeared there was a diversified group of water users who were attending the meeting. Numerous members from the WRIA 43 WRMG were in attendance at the meeting. The list of participants is presented above.

MEETING DISCUSSION AND COMMENT:

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

A copy of the March 17th minutes was distributed to the participants. Gene asked if there were any edits or corrections to the minutes. Two grammatical corrections were noted. Hearing no other edits, the minutes were accepted as modified by consensus.

Presentation by Molly Reid on other potential grant opportunities

At the March meeting, the Planning Unit requested that some research be conducted into other potential grants that could be applied for watershed planning. At this meeting, it was understood that no additional stat funding would be available and all monies for watershed planning would cease on June 30, 2010 (this was later changed, see below). Molly with GSI conducted some research for the group and presented her findings. She informed the group that funding was hard to find, and what is available is extremely competitive. Funding options primarily tended to be for water quality issues. Molly distributed a table of potential alternative funding opportunities. Many of the funding would not be available in the near future due to budgetary constraints. She recommended to the group that additional information be sought for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Husseman Grant program from Ecology.

Ecology Watershed Lead change

Jaime Short informed the group that she would no longer be the watershed lead for any WRIA's in eastern Washington and was moving full time into the shorelines program. She introduced Rusty Post who will be taking over the lead for the WRIA's. Rusty gave a brief introduction of himself and stated he is looking forward to working with the WRIA 53 Group. Several of the group thanked Jaime for her work with the group and were disappointed to see her leave.

Update on April 7th, 2010 Watershed Planners Meeting

Gene attended the April 7th watershed planners meeting in Moses Lake, a bimonthly meeting in which the watershed planners, Ecology reps, and County Commissioners get together to talk on watershed issues. This meeting focused on the reinstatement of the watershed funding within the state budget. The previous budget presented by the governor had eliminated all future watershed funding. However, an active letter writing campaign, meetings with state representatives and senators, and testimony at legislative hearings reversed this. The FY 2011 budget was reinstated and former grants approved for July 1 2010 through June 30, 2011 was reinstated. Ecology will be seeking input in June and July to begin planning for the FY12-FY13 budget period. WRIA 53 had \$70,000 budgeted in FY 11 for groundwater sampling and planning efforts.

Discussion on Future WRIA 53 Grant Applications

Gene opened discussions regarding potential future Ecology watershed grant submittals. The group talked about submitting the Phase 3 Watershed Plan grant at a minimum. Rusty also lead a talk regarding submitting some of the optional grants elements. He informed the group that the grants can be flexible to try to account for the goals and objectives of the Planning Unit. For example, a water quality grant did not necessarily have to solely address TMDL's, or a water storage grant surface water storage. A discussion was held by the group of potential future activities the Planning Unit might want to accomplish, and then see if the watershed grants could accommodate these activities. The group decided that potential future work should include: 1) arsenic and nitrate water quality sampling; 2) seep monitoring for flow and water quality; 3) additional public outreach on water rights and water quality to water users in the watershed; 4) a more detailed look at domestic exempt wells; and 5) potential continuous instream flow monitoring. The group asked Gene to begin to develop grant applications of the supplemental grants that may be able to address these issues. Gene requested that some members work with him to develop the scopes of work. Scott Hutsell, Dave Lundgren, Fred Bell, Courtney Harder and Rusty Post will work with Gene over the next couple of months to develop the grant applications.

Review of GIS Water Inventory Project

The draft Water Inventory Project report was distributed to the participants at the meeting. Gene and Courtney gave the Planning Unit a power point presentation on the Water Inventory Project. A review of the maps which will be used for land planning options in the future was conducted and a summary of the report was conducted. Gene requested that the group review the report and get comments to him by June 7th. The report will also be posted on-line.

Discussion on Water Level Monitoring

Gene informed the group that he is still compiling the data for the groundwater level monitoring report. A summary memo will be prepared for the information collected to date.

Update on Stream Flow Monitoring in Hawk Creek

Gene and Jaime updated the group on the instream flow data collected to date. Only three monitoring events have occurred to date. The streams have been seeing a steady increase in flows over the winter to spring months. Jaime informed the group that Ecology would only be conducting one more stream flow monitoring event in June. After that, the Ecology budget and resources would not be available. The group had a discussion on whether to continue the monitoring. A general consensus was to continue the monitoring and have the LCCD conduct the field work under the groundwater monitoring budget. Dave Lundgren will work with Courtney to amend the grant to allow for the continued flow monitoring.

Public Comment

Gene asked the group if there was any public comment. No public comment was offered

Setting of Next Meeting Time

A discussion was held on scheduling the next meeting. Gene notified the group that another organization had scheduled the meeting for the morning the proposed next WRIA 53 meeting was scheduled. However, the afternoon was open. It was determined that the next meeting will be scheduled for June 16th, 2010 from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Lincoln County Public Works Building in Davenport.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. If you have any questions please call Gene St.Godard at (509) 468-4876 or send an email message to Gene at stgod@comcast.net