

Notes from Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP)
Management Committee (MAC) Conference Call
September 28, 2005

Participants: Keith Stoffel, Rene'-Mark Mangin, Guy Gregory, Hal Anderson, Bob Haynes, Helen Harrington, Steve Lipscomb, Gary Turney

The main purpose of the call was to review and approve the proposed budget, prepared by the Project Technical Leadership Team (PTLT), for allocating the remaining funds for the SVRP project. (The budget is the accompanying spread sheet.) The budget allocates funding from the two FY05 EPA grants to the States (\$744K each), an FY05 EPA grant to the Chamber of Commerce (\$250K), an appropriation from the State of Idaho (\$250K), and State in-kind match (\$210.9K from Idaho, \$232.3K from Washington). The budget did not allocate a FY06 EPA grant to Washington (\$300K) because it has yet to be received and the States would like to hold it as a reserve at this time.

All parties agreed to the budget as proposed. It was noted that USGS was not funded for project management activities, including participation on the PTLT. While USGS was encouraged by both states to continue participating on the PTLT, USGS cannot conduct any direct project management activities without funding. However, USGS does not believe this would hinder USGS's ability to stand behind the results of the SVRP project because USGS is closely involved in most of the major work activities (ground-water modeling and the resultant report, water budget, geohydrologic framework, water level data collection, and the conceptual model report). Furthermore, the PTLT has shifted emphasis from planning to managing the remaining work, and because all of the funding is now coming through the States, IDWR and Ecology have taken on much of the management role. Thus, the leads for the USGS tasks (Hsieh, Kahle, Campbell, Bartolino) would work directly with the State PTLT (Gregory, Harrington) members to receive project information. Both States understood this change in role for USGS.

We discussed the status of work tasks identified in the budget as presently unfunded. Guy reviewed each task, and parts of some of the tasks have been done, but others are waiting funding. One task listed was a determination of the hydraulic conductivity of the river-bed, that the modeling team had expressed some interest in to USGS. Guy was not aware of the request, and thought they could obtain this information from existing well and streamflow data. He pointed out that if the modeling team desires additional river-bed conductivity information, they should make a request through the PTLT. USGS passed this information on to Paul Hsieh.

A question came up about whether USGS will continue leading the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Because the Memorandum of Understanding specifically states USGS will lead the TAC, the States felt the USGS should continue this task even though they were not funded to do so. USGS pointed out that because this is a direct project activity, management or otherwise, it should be funded. Because of the language in the MOU, Gary Turney and Steve Lipscomb agreed to take up the issue with Cindi Barton

and Kathy Peter. (Update: USGS will continue leading the TAC, and Jim Bartolino will take on that role.

There was also a discussion about printing the Retrospective Report, and some uncertainty as to whether printing costs had actually been included in the funding provided to USGS for completion of the report. It was also decided that the IDWR, Ecology, and USGS would each like 50 printed copies of the report so a 150 printed copies were needed. Gary Turney was to research the funding and costs further, get back to the group. (Update: USGS will pay for the printing of 200 reports. Printing costs are structured such that it is not cost effective to print fewer than 200.)

Guy Gregory asked for approval to begin preparing agreements with USGS to conduct the work as outlined in the budget. The MAC approved the budget and moving forward with the agreements.

The next MAC meeting will be held in January, in conjunction with the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) annual meeting.