

CIRC Spokane project pre-meeting
16 November 2017

In attendance (list on page 2): 15 participants, from City (2) and County (3) of Spokane, state agencies (Ecology, Commerce), Spokane Health District, USFS, Avista, NGOs (Land Conservancy, Lands Council), consultant, and college student. The vice chair of the Spokane Tribe of Indians wanted to attend but had a conflict; ag stakeholder arrived after the gate was locked.

The discussion was free-form.

Geographic area: everyone agreed it should be larger than the City of Spokane. More discussion about whether it should attempt to encompass the entire Spokane River watershed, given the importance of upstream watershed health for the river. Definitely Little Spokane River watershed.

Important issues to consider:

- A) Forest health - fire: air quality, community impacts including long-term economics, high-intensity fire followed by flooding could liberate heavy metals on an EPA superfund site (\$3b spent on cleanup), other water quality issues. Hemlock, Grand Fir - lots of Grand Fir died after the dry summer of 2015. Lodgepole dying off. Legacy of 1910 fire. Restoration needs are huge.
- B) water -
 - A) SVRP (Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie aquifer); there's been considerable work modeling the system (e.g. by IWRRI) but results aren't great,
 - B) water quality including temperature & bull trout, dissolved oxygen including in Lake Coeur d'Alene, Harmful Algal Blooms
 - C) Largest capital expense in county history was the water treatment plant (\$340m)
- C) Avista broadly interested in environmental health and community resilience. Flows for hydropower, resilience of grid e.g. ice storms, wind, fires, dust.

Some discussion of leadership roles - CIRC can convene & facilitate, prefers to have local participation in leadership e.g. co-chair, facilitator. City doesn't want to lead.

Next steps: CIRC has hired a new staff person who will be responsible for heading up this project. (By amazing coincidence, she's from Spokane, though she now lives in DC.) In January we will lay out a timeline for working with key partners to plan a meeting in the early spring.