

PBAC CAG Meeting of November 9, 2006

Attendance:

Members present:

Michael Echanove	Jim Mital
Jerry Fairley	Dan Boone
Joe Spoonemore	Earl Bennett
Helen Harrington, IDWR	Keith Stoffel WA DOE

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

George Grader, Kirk O'Reilly, Ben McLuen, William Brock

Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC, Mark Storey, PBAC

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as corrected.

PBAC Report and Update (October 19th meeting) by Steve Robischon

1. The CAG charter was defined by PBAC as 12 members (or 12 positions) as originally intended.
2. Andy Rogers of Colfax reported that he would look into finding a representative of an Idaho Small Water Provider such as a community.
3. The inter-entity agreement was discussed. There was a proposal to increase dues for the next year through the inter-entity agreement, rather than through amending the agreement itself.
4. Jerry Fairley reported that he would prepare a proposal for the \$250,000 earmarked money and that the individual entities would check on their ability to funnel contract money for the study.
5. PBAC agreed that it would only serve in a role of passive involvement with the five working groups resulting from the water summit.
6. PBAC discussed the letter from CAG to PBAC suggesting an interaction with the WOW (Waters of the West) group. PBAC directed Steve Robischon to initiate the contact. Steve and Mark Storey, Chair of PBAC, had a meeting with WOW this week to discuss the proposal of the \$250,000 DOE earmarked project. Also discussed at the meeting was the relationship between WOW and PBAC in the future.

Open Forum:

Keith Stoffel of Washington DOE reported that an appeal had been filed against six of the seven decisions regarding the recent WSU water right decisions from the basin. The appealing body listed twelve grounds. Now the appeal decision will go on to the Pollution Control Hearing Board, wherein a representative of the Attorney General will be assigned counsel for the case. Their decision is appealable to Superior Court, then ultimately to Supreme Court.

Michael Echanove asked if there were any updates regarding the Town of Colton water right transfer. Keith Stoffel clarified that any future transfer can only include water that is currently used or used in the past by the water right holder.

Michael Echanove summarized the "Knowledge Corridor" summit. He commented that the entire summit pointed back to the availability of water for the region for success of the "Knowledge Corridor" concept. Michael suggested that CAG write a letter. It was agreed that the effort to support the "Knowledge Corridor" should be a grass routes effort that focuses on increasing funding for water research and water supply improvements.

Jerry Fairley presented a motion that CAG make a recommendation to PBAC regarding reporting of water levels and pumping data. The motion was "all pumping entities should adhere to a standard method and standard equipment for reporting water levels and pumping data utilizing digital water meter equipment." He further motioned that the water reporting methods or protocol be mandatory for studies performed by PBAC and highly recommended for water producers of the area. The motion was seconded by Joe Spoonmore. Steve Robischon said that Tom Scallorn of the Moscow Water Department had previously volunteered to start a working group to develop a protocol plan. Jim Osiensky also volunteered to provide a protocol for water data collection efforts by grad students in the near future. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Michael Echanove asked the question about how the CAG needs to be more visible or more accessible to the public. A number of suggestions were forwarded such as the use of service clubs in the communities, notices at the courthouse, conservation districts, the water summit work groups and possibly articles in the local newspaper. Jerry Fairley motioned that the CAG invite the five working groups from the water summit to the next meeting to discuss or share issues. The motion was seconded by Jim Mital. Steve Robischon reminded the group that one of the working groups from the water summit is a coordinating group and that communication should be coordinated through that group. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Business:

There is a proposal to meet on Dec. 6th with our local legislators to discuss the hydro geologic study proposal of the basin, including scope, schedule, deliverables, budget, etc. A great deal of discussion followed regarding tangible and usable results of the study and how that would be important to the local legislators. It was concluded that Michael Echanove would try to get in touch with legislators Buri and Schoesler to meet with them regarding the proposal for the DOE earmarked funds. It was noted that Representatives Buri and Schoesler will be in Pullman Dec. 6th, and that Michael would attempt to get a meeting with them that day since they will be in town anyway.

Next meeting will be December 7, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

These notes were approved at the January 11, 2007 CAG meeting.