

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of April 9, 2009

Introductions:

Attendance:

Name	Representing	Present	Excused	Absent
Michael Echanove, Chair	Municipal Provider - WA	X		
Vacant	Municipal Provider – ID			
Dr. George Grader	Petitioning Group	X		
Julie Titone	Petitioning Group	X		
Dr. Jim Mital	Water Conservation Group	X		
Joe Spoonemore	Rural Interests – WA			X
Susan Wilson	Rural Interests – ID	X		
Dan Boone	Developer/Business – WA	X		
Mark Loaiza	Developer/Business - ID	X		
Dr. Jerry Fairley	Technical Representative	X		
Ree Brannon	Other			X
	Other			
Keith Stoffel	WSDOE, ex-officio			X
Michael McVay	IDWR, ex-officio	Phone		

Guests:

- Mark Storey
- Steve Robischon
- Jamie Bentley, WSU Environmental Wellbeing Coordinator
- Barbara Cousins, U. of I. WOW advisor
- Katie Bilodeau, U. of I. WOW program
- Matt Reaves, U. of I. WOW program
- Luke Marchant, U. of I. WOW program

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Echanove at 6:15 pm

Approval of minutes: The minutes will be tabled until next meeting.

Updates:

- IDWR. Mike McVay attended by phone and had very little to report. The Idaho research money will be cut back dramatically until the economy returns. This is the aquifer characterization and management work. The first proposal to allow selling of water outside of the city limits of a purveyor has died in the Idaho House. It is dead for this legislative session. There is an effort to re-write the legislation and try to pass it next session.
- WSDOE: not present.

- PBAC met March 19. Report by Steve Robischon. There was a research presentation by Aaron Fiedler, regarding Grande Ronde Pumping efficiencies. The Pullman/WSU reuse project has an RFP out on the street. They are looking for a consultant. The WRIA funding has been drastically cut. Started planning for a water summit in early October. PBAC emphasized that they need to get back into research. *Jerry Fairley motioned that we request a written response to our recent request for a conservation component to the PBAC research money. Seconded by Julie Titone, and adopted unanimously.*

Presentations:

1. Waters of the West. Integrated Analysis of the Decision Making Process in the Palouse Basin. The presentation provoked a great deal of discussion regarding local governance with respect to land use and water conservation.
2. Jamie Bentley, Environmental Wellbeing Coordinator, WSU – Jamie is working at the WSU campus to enhance water use, reuse, conservation etc. One example is in the Student Recreation Center, WSU is working toward a more water friendly and sustainable environment.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding the Palouse Wells issue. Michael Echanove delivered a brief discussion of the well temperature readings discussed at the last CAG meeting. At this time there is no additional data to present. Steve Robischon downloaded data from the wells yesterday. Steve has installed some additional data loggers in both the river and the older “dug” well. He hopes to learn more over the coming months. The two affected wells are vastly different in age, one is a 1910 well and the other is a 2002 well. Water quality testing has not revealed any contaminants. Jerry indicates that the wells are fairly obviously drawing predominantly from the extensive Basalt Aquifer, yet has an obvious impact from seasonal surface water temperatures.

New Business:

- Agenda item for the next CAG meeting. Is it time for new leadership. Michael has been Chairman for 2 years, and is willing to give it up for new leadership opportunities. Michael asks that the CAG consider this for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: May 14, 6:15pm, at the Jacks Creek Room, U of I. Facilities.

Adjourned at 7:50 pm.