

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee  
Citizens Advisory Group  
August 10, 2006  
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Members Present:	Michael Echanove, Chairman Dan Boone Earl Bennett Bill Elliot Ben McLuen	Jerry Fairley Kirk O'Reilly William Brock Jim Mital
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Members Absent:

Guests & Ex-officio:	Mark Storey, PBAC Keith Stoffel, DOE Mike Milano, Palouse City Council	Steve Robischon, PBAC Jan Boll, WOW Larry Kirkland, PBAC
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Ex-Officio Absent: Helen Harrington, IDWR

Roll Call: All members were present or excused.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as amended.

**PBAC Report/Update:**

Mark Storey and Steve Robischon reported. Storey reported that much of the last PBAC meeting involved discussions of the IDWR project, budget, and inter-local agreement issues. The IDWR deep drilling project is facing some delays due to a drilling mishap. The deep monitor well casing has broken off at about the halfway point, and the drillers are trying to cut it off and retrieve the casing, so that they can complete the well. This will likely delay the project several weeks to a month or so. The problems are contractually the responsibility of the drilling contractor, and should not impact PBAC or IDWR.

Storey and Robischon reported that PBAC has pledged up to \$40,000 to be used to augment the IDWR project funds, so that all the desired wells can be completed. The committee authorized the Chair to use discretion to choose how much funding (not to exceed \$40,000) to allocate to the project based on available information when the decision needs to be made.

Storey reported that the PBAC committee voted to hold back on sending the annual fee assessments to the member agencies until they could conclude discussions regarding the inter-local agreement and fees. It was further agreed that the agreement itself would be retrieved from the U of I, so that additional modifications could be made at the next meeting of PBAC. The primary goal of the changes would be to remove the fee assessment language from the agreement. The intent would be to streamline future dues increases/decreases without requiring the concurrence of the individual agencies' attorneys. Storey further shared recent activities of requesting the dues increase from the City of Moscow, with only partial success. Activities included a letter from Steve Robischon to Mayor Chaney, a letter from the CAG chairman, Michael Echanove to the Moscow City Council, and testimony by Storey at the Budget Hearing on Monday night. The City elected to raise its budgeted amount to PBAC by 10%, to \$30,800, rather than the requested \$40,000.

**Open Forum:**

1. Jerry Fairley requested that the "pumpers" attempt to capture time-based data regarding pumping. Specifically, if time-based pumping records were acquired, it may assist the researchers to interpret the data better, as "pumping" wells are the primary sources of data regarding water levels in the basin.

2. Keith Stoffel of WDOE reported that Ecology has been successful in inserting \$250,000 worth of funding earmarked for the Palouse Basin into the fiscal 2007-09 budget. He suggested that the CAG and PBAC both spend some time and effort with State legislators to try and protect the money for the next biennium.
3. Jan Boll of the Waters of the West (WOW) gave a presentation regarding the purpose of the WOW program, its current staffing, educational opportunities, research requirements, and long term prospects for U of I. He indicated that it will mostly provide a platform for masters and Ph.D. research and degrees. Its pilot project will be about the Palouse Basin, and was seeded with around \$1.6 million by the University. It will be seeking outside funding opportunities over the next 5 years to further finance the program in to the future. WOW plans to help PBAC with its mission because of its broad based representation (the sciences, law, engineering, management, economics, etc.). Jan's presentation was well received by the CAG.

**Business:**

1. Earl Bennett presented his modifications to the Rathdrum Prairie ground water study scope to fit the needs of the Palouse Basin. Earl said he believed that with additional work the scope could be ready to submit for a funding request. However, he suggested that CAG and PBAC study our needs at a deeper level by forming a Technical Advisory Committee to summarize our needs and the goals of the study. He further strongly suggested that PBAC ask the WOW program to act as the technical advisors, which would help both PBAC and WOW. Stoffel of DOE concurred with Bennett. Michael motioned that the CAG move forward with the proposal process, to be discussed at the next CAG meeting.

Next Meeting was set for September 14, 2006.

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn at 9:18pm. Motion passed.

These notes were approved at the September 14, 2006 CAG meeting.