

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of September 11, 2008

Introductions:

Attendance:

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

Guests:

Steve Robischon
 Allyson Beall
 Fritz Fiedler
 Barb Cosens
 Susan Wilson
 Jan Boll

Approval of Minutes: The July 10, 2008 minutes were approved as written.

Potential new CAG member, Rural Interests (ID), Susan Wilson:

- ◆ She is a graduate of UI College of Law, Law Office in Moscow. Specialized in Real Estate Law and Water Rights. Ex Officio member Chamber of Commerce, Rendezvous, City of Moscow Comprehensive Plan. Very interested in water use on the Palouse. She lives out Mountain View. Just went through a water right process. Property in Bovill.
- ◆ Approved as new member. Welcome, Susan!

PBAC: No August meeting. Nothing new to report.

IDWR: No report.

DOE: Keith Stoffel. The decision made by the PCHB in the Cornelius case has been appealed in Whitman County Superior Court. The appellants have also filed a motion in the Court of Appeals, asking that court to take the case directly, before it's heard by the Superior Court. Ecology will be filing a response to the appellants' motion in early October. The Court of Appeals will then decide whether to hear the case or defer it back to the Superior Court. Water Conservancy Board? Nothing to report. Budget update with legislature? DOE banned from out of state travel. Freeze on hiring. Don't know what this means for watershed planning. No news that it is being cut. Will need to ask for exemption to attend water summit.

Old Business:

Letter to Dr. Floyd see July notes for background. Since then letter was crafted, PBAC signed, Echanove signed for CAG, sent to Dr. Floyd, received response from Dr. Floyd. CAG supports reuse facility. Michael and Julie met with Kevin Gardes, project engineer for the facility to gather data to create FAQ sheet. Julie: some additional money will be needed to finalize plan and take to the legislator. What would the route be? Who would be serviced? Ans: all of the water will go to WSU. Logistically not a lot of city land on the proposed pipeline. So there are political ramifications – this is a WSU project and not a city project. But, Kevin thinks partnering is important. The city will need some money to help upgrade waste water plant. Larry Ganders – WSU lobbyist – questions from Julie and Michael, full support of CAGs interest. Ganders will vet the list of questions (FAQ). Make available at water summit, potentially. Kevin thinks this is do or die for this project. Once DOE has a minimum stream flow set in near future and new water rights wouldn't be available. Estimate of \$16 million to create facility. Question – how much would that water be worth to the city? Recapture rate of funds within x amount of time. Offset the need to spend on a reservoir. This would be good information for informing the state legislature. It would be away to quantify. How would it benefit residents of Pullman. Rural users. Kevin's responses will be sent around to CAG members.

Palouse makes a voluntary contribution of \$1500 to PBAC.

Can municipalities acquire water rights from Clearwater Forest (old mining claims)- - future topic for discussion. Palouse divide region, too.

Articles in the papers – Dan says he's heard good comments from folks that it helped them understand issues with Hawkins, etc.. Jim Mital made the following verbal correction: he does NOT disagree with Steve R. on the need for research. Motion to send letter. Seconded. CAG will send a letter congratulating the articles, upcoming water summit and interest in reuse facility. Julie volunteered to craft. Will be for Lewiston Tribune and DNews.

Question from Michael for CAG participants. Article in Colfax Gazette indicates they pump from aquifer and dump in stream. What's up with that? Keith: Part of permit requires dumping some water back into stream. They have already been dumping some because LaCrosse asked about it. It is a condition to perfect water right that is required by Fish and Wildlife. Can a private individual capture water that is dumped – no ... no new water rights being issued. If water right is expired no new rights can be claimed. Has to be current. What if they were limited by stream flows and now there is flow –then maybe could make the argument to

reinstate the right. Uncertain whether they would prevail. No word on Hawkins – one well is being drilled. They have a pond. 250 gal. / minute with the well. Joint agreement between municipalities (Whitman County and Moscow) is on the agenda for the upcoming city Council meeting Monday night.

New Business:

Wow presentation: Draft for water summit presentation. Allyson Beall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Hats off to Kirk O'Reilly – emeritus CAG member extraordinaire. Keep the emails coming.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2008.