

PBAC CAG meeting of September 14, 2006

Attendance:

Members present:

Michael Echanove	Ben McLuen
Jim Mital	Kirk O'Reilly
Bill Elliot	

Members Excused:

Joe Spoonemore	Jerry Fairley
Earl Bennett	

Members Absent:

Dan Boone	William Brock
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Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC	Mark Storey, PBAC
Keith Stoffel, ex-officio, DOE	Helen Harrington, ex-officio, IDWR

Approval of minutes:

Two small corrections were proposed by Keith Stoffel of the Washington Department of Ecology. The minutes were approved as corrected.

PBAC report & update (August 17 meeting): by Steve Robischon.

- CAG membership was discussed, PBAC would like to try and solicit interest in several vacancies, first, a technical person to replace Jay Eliason, and second, a representative of a small municipal water provider from Idaho. PBAC would like CAG to send a letter regarding membership.
- The city of Moscow approved a 10% increase in annual dues. As a result, PBAC decided to go with last years assessments.
- The city Palouse has budgeted \$1500 for PBAC for the coming year.
- Larry Kirkland is working on a water supply cost worksheet for PBAC to present to the public. Larry is trying to prepare the worksheet in terms of consumer costs.
- The October water summit was discussed. The summit will be on October 3.
- Other announcements were made at the meeting, which included: Moscow Civic Association, October 9 at 7 p.m.; Moscow water seminar, October 11 at 7 p.m.; North Idaho education workshop, October 13, all day at Moscow City Hall.

Open forum:

Jim Mital suggested that the CAG has suitable technical expertise, and that it may not need to fill the technical member position vacated by Jay Eliason. Jim forwarded a motion that CAG communicate to PBAC that it is comfortable with the makeup of the group without replacing the additional technical representative. The motion was seconded by Ben and passed by the group.

Keith Stoffel of the Washington Department of Ecology indicated that a new lawsuit was filed on September 1 regarding Washington Municipal Water Law. Apparently, the lawsuits main objection is related to the municipalities ability to retain Inchoate Water Rights. The lawsuit cited several supporting case studies statewide including one in Pullman (Scott Cornelius versus WSU). Mr. Cornelius believes WSU could harm him by preventing him from exercising his full water right. Both the City of Pullman and WSU have filed paperwork with the state to change their water rights. The decisions on both of the filings will be issued next week. The WSU applications were protested at the time and may be appealed. The change applications for both WSU and Pullman were for the integration of multiple water rights. The WSU filing was protested, and the Pullman filing was not protested. Also noted by Keith is that an appeal of Ecology's decision does not require a previous protest. The appeals go to the State Pollution Control Hearing Board.

Michael Echanove requested information from Keith Stoffel regarding the McKiernan water transfer at the city of Colton. The water right transfer request went to the water Conservancy Board, and was also sent to the Department of Ecology. It was withdrawn at the last minute and has not been resubmitted.

Jim Mital reported that someone from the Naylor Farms consultant group is reportedly using University of Idaho's and PBAC's names to help collect information from property owners around the Naylor Farms project. It was also reported that the Naylor Farms conditional use permit hearings will commence on September 25 by Latah County.

Business:

There was a discussion about the proposed PBAC organizational diagram. A large discussion revolved around what the relationship is between PBAC and the entities. Currently PBAC is essentially a subset of the entities themselves. Much of the discussion was concerned with what the relationship is between PBAC and State agencies. Also there was discussion about how the decision-making process occurs between the entities and PBAC. It was agreed that PBAC is in need of a strong technical program manager to connect the overall goals of PBAC with how to get the data for PBAC. There was also discussion about the roles of various technical advisory teams as proposed in the model. Some of the existing deficiencies in the model included, someone to handle money from appropriations, inclusion of WRIA 34 planning unit, policy advisory group. Right now, it is the feeling of the CAG members, that PBAC is focused only on technical issues, but needs to expand other issues such as management, water use, conservation, policies, WRIA, etc. in the future. Steve Robischon added that PBAC's 1992 Ground Water Management included goals, measurement standards, requirements for revision, and monitoring. These things have not been adhered to strictly in the last several years.

The question was posed by Michael Echanove about whether CAG should be involved in the seven working groups proposed for the water summit, to work on some specific tasks over the next year. It was agreed to have an informal presence at the summit, and to serve on the working groups on an individual basis if desired.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.