

**CAG meeting notes, Dec. 10, 2009**

**Members present: Dan Boone, Michael Echanove. George Grader, Mark Loaiza, Julie Titone**

**PBAC staff present: Steve Robischon**

**Guest present: David Hall.**

PBAC Report from Steve Robischon:

The recently approved Framework project, designed to gather all scientific studies/documents since 1897 that characterize groundwater in the Palouse region, will suffer cutbacks as a result of anticipated Washington State Department of Ecology cutbacks. The project, approved by PBAC and administered by the Whitman County Conservation District, was approved for \$140,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$40,000 for FY 2011. The FY 2010 amount will be reduced and the FY11 amount eliminated by Ecology, which had not signed the contracts before the governor's budget was announced. Terragraphics won the contract; PBAC will discuss ways to allow the project to go forward. PBAC has committed up to \$50,000 for the project, which will identify the next level of research projects that needs to be done to characterize the extent of the groundwater supply.

There was discussion about whether Steve could do/complete the project. He said it could take him about 10 years if he were to do the work by himself. CAG members expressed support for the idea of using PBAC funds to provide support for Steve to finish up after Terragraphics work is done, given it may not be completed due to budget cuts.

Steve explained that the documents that need to be identified are widely scattered, from the PBAC library to Washington State University, University of Idaho, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Corps of Engineers, unpublished theses, etc. There was discussion of the value of PBAC investing in a grant writer to help complete the project, bring in money for research.

In other research updates, Steve described the basin aquifer test in which Jim Osiensky and grad students would install 30 data loggers to record pump action at wells, in order to determine groundwater storativity in basin. Also, he mentioned the tritium project, designed to track presence of "young" WWII-era water and how it might be mixing with older groundwater. Osiensky wants to change initial focus of project from Grand Ronde to Wanapum aquifer.

Steve also reported that the U.S. Geological Survey was sending staff from Portland and Boise to discuss potential for getting matching research dollars from PBAC.

**CAG new business.**

Mark reported that he had been unable to find someone to represent an Idaho municipal water provider on the CAG. There was discussion about whether PBAC could amend membership rules to include someone from a community not drawing water within the Palouse watershed.

Michael reminded members of his wish to step down as CAG chairmanship. Members discussed desirability of having chair/vice chair arrangement similar to PBACs, with representatives from both states. Mark suggests a co-chair arrangement. Julie moves that Mark be co-chair from Idaho. George seconds the motion, which is carried for ayes to (Mark's) nay. Dan nominates Julie as co-chair; Mark seconds; motion carried.

Steve noted that PBAC will have to approve the CAG organizational change, so members move to make the change to co-chair provisional upon PBAC approval.

Steve mentions that Mike Leonas, vice chair of PBAC, had intended to be at the meeting. He also mentioned that PBAC chair Paul Kimmell is planning a leadership summit regarding basin water supply issues in January, and CAG representatives will be invited.

Jan 14 is set as the next CAG meeting date. Meeting adjourned.