

**Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**Meeting of January 8, 2009**

**Introductions:**

**Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 Spoonmore	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
Ken Neilly	IDWR, ex-officio			X

*Guests:*

Mark Storey  
Michael Yount  
Eric Johnson

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

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of November 12, 2008 were approved as presented with minor edits.

**UPDATES:**

- IDWR not present.
- WDOE not present
- PBAC cancelled in December.
- Michael Echanove – We got out our letters to Governor Gregoire from both CAG and PBAC. We had excellent follow through on the letters. There were 29 letters sent to local organizations encouraging them to write the legislature and governor supporting money in the state budget for the water re-use project. The Q & A sheet, authored by Julie, went to WSU, Pullman, etc and is in our handouts for dissemination. Michael also got a copy of the letter from City of Moscow for the re-use facility. The governor’s budget included money (15.7 million dollars) for the re-use project. Unfortunately, her

proposal had “strings” attached. One was to have student fees pay for the facility, and the other was to preclude the facility from delivering water to the golf course. Additionally, WSDOE awarded \$1.7 million to WSU for the enhancement of habitat through water re-use.

- At the Pullman Town Hall meeting, Michael and others were able to visit with our area legislators about the water re-use project. Senator Schoessler said there is also a plan B for the facility. This would include proposing it for the federal economic stimulus plan.
- Mark Loaiza suggests we consider making a recommendation to PBAC and others regarding the use of reclaimed water for the golf course. He indicated that we should take a deliberate public stance regarding the re-use facility and irrigation at the golf course. This could be accomplished through a letter to PBAC and ultimately, the governor and legislature. ***Mark motioned that we put out a letter of support in conjunction with PBAC (to key legislators) for the water re-use project at WSU*** (stating that golf course use should not be excluded) with the intent of reducing pumping demands on the Grande Ronde aquifer, seconded by Jerry. It was stressed that the letter must be crafted in a way that there is no specific support for the golf course itself. Furthermore, the letter must urge the legislature to refrain from allowing restrictions on the uses of the re-use water (so that the local officials may decide on how to best use the reclaimed water). ***Unanimously approved.*** Michael volunteered to send out a rough draft of the letter for consideration by CAG.

#### New Business:

- Public engagement: It was suggested that we promote a Public Involvement Campaign (PIC) regarding protection of our region’s water supplies. Julie Titone suggests that PBAC consider using its research budget in conjunction with the City of Moscow, to educate both the permanent and transient population of our region. This should be a formal recommendation from CAG to PBAC. PBAC should try to hire someone to “spread the word” through the communities. It needs to be crafted as an effective public awareness campaign (e.g. billboards, flags, etc), potentially put forth as a grant program. It might even be best managed as a student project, with a budget that will promote a professional looking campaign. CAG should consider asking PBAC to expand its use of research money to include public involvement or education. This would allow for the PIC campaign. ***Jim motioned to have Julie craft a letter of recommendation, seconded by Dan. Unanimously approved.***
- George Grader brought up the idea of “considering” the positive water resource attributes of the Whitman County zoning plan as compared to the Latah County plan. This would include some review and ultimate modification of the Latah County Comprehensive Plan to include some significant or additional language regarding water use and conservation. Re-zone applications typically include information regarding water resource considerations, and the current plan does not provide enough guidance. We will ask Susan to provide some information to CAG about how water use will affect or be affected by the proposed Latah County Comprehensive Plan changes.
- Jerry Fairley shared that the state of Idaho had put aside about \$20 million for water related studies, including \$2 million for the Palouse Basin. Fritz Fiedler approached Jerry to go after a 401B grant to look at the distribution of aquifer properties (via pumping records, etc) to try to reduce some of the unknowns in the WOW model.

Unfortunately, Idaho removed the money from the budget recently. This is all a function of the recent financial collapse.

- Mark Loaiza talked to Walter Steed. Mr. Steed volunteered to come to a future CAG meeting and discuss his efforts to sell water across the state line to the Hawkins Project. The response was that CAG would like to have Walter attend. It was also felt that the CAG should also invite a Whitman County Commissioner. We will make 6:30 to 7:30 available to this discussion.
- Michael discussed the recent flurry of emails from George regarding Marilyn Beckett taking Georges position on the CAG, then George serving as her alternate. The issue was tabled for a future discussion.

Next Meeting: February 12, 6:15pm, at the Jacks Creek Room, U of I. Facilities.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.