

**Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)**  
**Meeting of February 12, 2010**

**Introductions:**

**Attendance:** Michael Echanove, Julie Titone, Jim Mital, Susan Wilson, Dan Boone, Ree Brannon

*Guests: Mike Leonas, vice-chair PBAC, Steve Robischon*

**Approval of Minutes:**

\*\*A decision was made for recording notes: We will record content of discussion but only record names for voting. If the vote requires a roll call and someone abstains that name should be required; also if there is a dissenting vote. Otherwise, votes will be recorded as “unanimous.”

*A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the recommended amendments (Michael Echanove moved and Dan Boone seconded. The motion passed with one abstention – Susan Wilson (who did not attend the January meeting)*

**PBAC Report:** Steve Robischon, Executive Manager

([http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/Minutes\\_2010/PBAC\\_Final\\_Minutes\\_January\\_2010.pdf](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/Minutes_2010/PBAC_Final_Minutes_January_2010.pdf))

The meeting was January 21, 2010. There was a presentation by Dave Morgan, USGS, on the Columbia Plateau Ground Water Study. The Palouse is on the edge of the plateau.

Jim Bartolino, Idaho USGS office, Principal scientist at the Idaho Water Science Center, said that USGS has a cost-share program where they will provide a 50% match on projects, studies, or data collection. USGS will do the work and will pay half. PBAC pays the other half. PBAC needs to consider the offer.

DOE has pulled back funding for the Palouse Framework project. PBAC is now looking at \$130K. They have pulled \$50K out of the scope (by removing recommendations and conclusions). The project needs to be done by the end of June 2010.

Terra Graphics and IDWR are working on a surface-water reservoir feasibility study for Moscow.

Design work for the WSU/Pullman water reclamation project is still funded despite budget cuts. DOE has \$1.5M earmarked for it. Stream bank mitigation and design development are under way on the South Fork of the Palouse River. Design kickoff is slated for around February 25. How much of previous design usable? The previous design needs to be substantially reworked (>50%). JUB consulting has been hired to do it.

Paul Kimmel announced the Leadership Roundtable. It is scheduled for February 26. CAG members can be there as observers. The targeted participants are local political leaders. Allyson

Beall will present the participatory system dynamics model. The forum will be at the Bell Tower in Pullman from 2-6pm.

Bob Haynes reported that the North Idaho adjudication is moving forward and IDWR issued a notice in the CDA area that anyone not on city water needs to file claims.

The next PBAC meeting is February 18.

**DOE:** No Report, Keith Stoffel

**IDWR:** No Report

## **Old business:**

Draft CAG bylaws discussion and suggested amendments:

- ◆ Need to include purpose and mission, some verbiage on the mandate from PBAC for CAGs operation;
- ◆ Can CAG do its own thing? The mandate seems to be clear that CAG provides recommendations to PBAC. Refer to the mission statement to ground the bylaws to that.
- ◆ Include wording to the effect “With the approval by PBAC, CAG may propose and conduct additional projects.”

List projects that CAG can undertake without PBAC approval

- ◆ will arrange neighborhood meetings
- ◆ gather of public input
- ◆ share opinions reached by consensus of the group, such as letters to the newspapers

There was discussion on what are the qualifications (or roles and responsibilities) of members? Attendance? What groups can be represented? Tie to original mandate.

Describe actions may be taken without a meeting, for example electronic, teleconference, or videoconference. Would require polling of entire membership

Decisions on a quorum. For ten (10) standing members, at least six (6) could be a quorum to be able to conduct a meeting requiring decision-making. Decisions would made by majority vote of the quorum (at least 4). Need to develop wording for proxy votes or calling in a vote.

State when meetings are to be held: Monthly meetings, i.e. second Thursday of the month, time and place approved by the group.

State that officers (chair and vice-chair) will serve annual terms.

Since it is impractical to require Idaho and Washington be represented by the chairs add wording to the effect that: “Preference given to keep the balance.” Should there be a secretary? A suggestion was made to require that the chair be responsible and they can delegate as needed.

Regarding sections B and C under II. Meetings and elections:

CAG can recommend (to the PBAC) removal of a member, based on certain conditions, by majority of standing members not just the quorum

Membership implies regular attendance to monthly meetings.

What constitutes the Palouse Region? The CAG should be residents of Whitman and Latah Counties. Develop wording such as: The CAG will consist of no more than 12 residents of....

*Ree will give draft minutes with these edits to Julie and Susan. Susan will send some proposed language.*

### **New business:**

- ◆ Discussion by Michael Echanove of WA Legislators request for governor's support for the implementation of the Water Conservation Operation & Maintenance Program. (The letters were posted on Ning page)

Why is this program significant? Issue: Columbia Snake River Irrigators Association submitted the proposal to Gregoire. They are the stakeholders and want to loosen the constraints to maintaining water rights. The question: Can the irrigators use water that has been saved through conservation, after setting aside flow for instream requirements on new irrigated ground? Senators and Representative (40 in all) have signed, and including those from 9<sup>th</sup> district.

Darryll Olsen – Principal Consultant of the Columbia Snake River Irrigation Assn. joined the meeting by phone and clarified a few points: The conservation considered for this is on a seasonal basis, they are not changing crops, seasons, or water systems. This program would apply to direct pumpers and is a closed system. Conservation and operation measures have to be in place (probes, weather net data, water allocation) to qualify. There are no return flows issues. RCWW 9090. Provide half for instream and half to the use of new irrigated acreage. Any new acreage used by this program would be land adjacent to irrigation and under existing water right so it could be leased, neighboring, or privately held. There would be no change in points of diversion.

What has to be resolved: With the seasonal transfer of water rights – would the original of the rights be subject to relinquishment?

- ◆ Proposal by Julie to request PBAC funds for CAG office support, including printing and staff time. We are aware of the contributions made by Steve and appreciate. *No proposal necessary at this point.*
- ◆ There is a proposal by Julie to request that PBAC advertise for CAG members to fill vacancies. Julie will write up the proposal and share with CAG at the next meeting. The

proposal should explicitly mention what categories need to be filled in. Broadness of representation is necessary.

- ◆ Upcoming speakers: Bobby Ryder, will be here March 11. Other suggestions: Campus planner at WSU and Lead on development Wildlife viewing center and arboretum project and potential water uses. Mike Holthaus, UI water manager, tentatively scheduled for April meeting.

Open Forum:

Comments by Mike Leonas; The playfield project at WSU student recreation committee is a revitalization of existing fields. The project will enhance the playing surfaces and safety and provide more opportunity to use fields (i.e. longer seasons). They will improve the subgrade, and adding artificial turf with drainage layer underneath. There will be a net decrease in water use because the only irrigation will be for landscaping. They estimate 15 million gallon savings. The students need to vote on it. Public Forum will be held on Feb 17, 12:15 -1:15 or 6-7pm at the CUB. These will be tournament ready facilities and will be upgraded with current monies (fees will not have to be raised). Once the students vote it goes then to the Board of Regents.

Jim Mital moved to adjourn and Susan Wilson seconded. Motion passed.

**Next Meeting: March 11, 2010.**