

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of March 27, 2008

Introductions:

Attendance:

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

Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC
 Mark Storey
 David Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Echanove at 6:12 pm

Approval of minutes: The February 21, 2008 minutes were approved as amended to reflect a minor correction.

Idaho DWR Report – Ken Neilly. (Not Present)

Washington DOE Report– Keith Stoffel (Not Present)

PBAC Report & Update (Steve Robischon): The last PBAC meeting was held last week, on March 20.

- Discussed the overall goals of PBAC. Steve made a recommendation to look at goals. The suggestion was to continue until the next meeting. One of the issues was to address the timeline for the preparation of the plan, per the agreement.
- PBAC is considering the funding of new projects. There were no resolutions regarding this item. PBAC will discuss this issue again next month.

- Hawkins Development. Les MacDonald discussed the fact that the City was applying to modify its water rights to reflect the servicing of the Hawkins Development. The process is ongoing. Fairley suggested that the cross-line discussions point to the need for a regional water authority. Idaho, in general, has little heartache with transferring water outside of the state. But, the agreement would likely have to be with a Washington public entity (such as Whitman County, rather than Hawkins).
- Pullman has started its low-flow toilet rebate program (offering up to \$125 per facility)
- Moscow sent a letter to IDWR supporting the North Idaho adjudication process.
- Moscow has scoped a feasibility study for a surface water reservoir project.
- Paul Kimmel discussed Columbia Basin water outlook. Runoff forecasts look like we will have normal or above normal runoff.
- The Governor of Idaho has signed a proposal to dedicate \$20 million to perform studies with respect to water resources. However, the money will be subject to yearly appropriations. The money will not be available until 2010 or so. The draft work plan will include a “Framework” project.
- CAG representation – CAG needs to resolve who represents who on the CAG per the “structure” set by PBAC. The representation is set in the letter from PBAC to IDWR in 2005.

Discussion by the group regarding the position held by each CAG member. Fairley suggested that he could serve as “technical” rather than “Petitioning”, and Julie as “Petitioning” rather than “other”. Mital motioned that both changes be effected and presented to PBAC. He also asked if he could be represented by an alternate also representing his interest group. Ree seconded the motion. CAG passed the motion unanimously. Included, was a motion unanimously approved for Steve Robischon to take Julies (motioned Jim, seconded by Ree) name and Jerry’s (motioned Julie, seconded George) change of representation to PBAC for approval. Both motions passed.

Open Forum Discussion: None.

New Business:

- Julie was approached by Nick Conrad of WSU about student involvement in issues. They plan on having a public forum regarding WSU Golf Course water use. The purpose will be to discuss the use of aquifer water on the grass. They want a discussion, and at least three different perspectives on the issue. They want to show support for the reuse facility to help offset water use. Nick would like the CAG to endorse the event as a co-sponsor. The reason is that they want to involve the community rather than merely have a student discussion. They have also talked to PWCN, who is talking positively about it. They would like to really push the legislature to fund the golf course. Julie’s sense is that the student population really doesn’t know much about the water issues in the basin, and would like to know more and help with the solution.
- There was some discussion regarding the pros and cons of co-sponsorship. The group mostly agreed that the CAG needs to stay neutral in the community. The event may become adversarial, or be conceived that way. Several of the members expressed interest in attending only. The CAG is currently trying to gain some favor with legislators on funding issues, and participation may compromise that.

- Julie suggested that the CAG should consider its role in public events such as this. Maybe the CAG needs to provide some more input on controversial issues. It may help with “getting the word out”.
- Steve suggests that PBAC’s formation of CAG was to help with public involvement and education. Maybe CAG should make some suggestions to PBAC about it.
- Pullman Water Rates: The Evergreen published an article regarding the new higher rates. The article quotes Mark Workman about how the new rates will discourage water waste. The rates will be higher in the summer irrigation season. This is part of the new water conservation plan. The article also presents the new low-flow toilet rebate program. For example, each newer toilet could save up to 10,000 gallons per year. The City will focus on financial measures to discourage water waste.
- Julie was at the meeting, and reports that the rate plan is no different than what is already in place. The actual rate plan will be evaluated and changed this fall, for implementation next year. Julie also testified that the City should also consider limiting the hours of outdoor irrigation, as Moscow has done. It seemed to Julie that the City is not interested in establishing an ordinance establishing irrigation hours. Julie thinks that this is an issue that CAG should consider writing a letter to the City of Pullman recommending the setting of water rates similar to Moscow, and establishment of irrigation hours. Grader suggested we approach Mark Workman to set higher water rates. Steve said it would likely be a good idea to make sure all of the members of CAG discuss and vote on this issue. Fairley said we need to sanitize any proposal of specific rates or quantitative suggestions to keep the CAG from being perceived as adversarial. Echanove said we need to have a motion to create and send a letter to Pullman regarding conservation rates and ordinances. Julie moved we craft a letter for consideration. Second by Jim Mital. Julie volunteered to create the draft letter. Motion passed to create a draft letter for the next meeting.
- Ree suggests we consider approaching the issue from a more global perspective. We should examine water rates and ordinances from both sides of the state line, and compare/contrast to make “bigger” picture recommendations to the whole basin.
- Fairley said we should advise PBAC to solicit a study regarding how to set a rate structure to discourage water waste in the basin. This might include ordinances for use. This may also include some evaluation of measures to encourage developers to incorporate more water saving designs in place.
- Ree Brannon updated the group on the 2008 water summit planning. It will be held at the University Inn in Moscow on October 7. The intent is to have the director of the Bureau of Reclamation as the first speaker. Then there will be some updates by CAG, PBAC, info, Golder & Associates on the Kamiak Butte infiltration study, the Participatory Modeling. The afternoon will have some presentation on conservation, including some info from regulators. There will also be an evening session. Also, there will be a Xeri-scaping photo demonstration. Also in the evening will be a question/answer session to start some discussions regarding the “bigger” or more sensitive issues. They are going to invite both Washington and Idaho senators (Schroeder & Schoessler).
- Participatory Modeling study – next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 9 to 11am, Jacks Creek Room at the U. of I Facilities. They have already had their first meeting.
- Latah County Planning – Comprehensive Plan. Ree indicated that Latah County is trying to find a way to get participation in the update of their Comprehensive Plan. They would

like PBAC, CAG, and WOW to participate. A representative of the County would like to come to our meeting to “scope” regional water issues. Michael suggested that we invite them to the next CAG meeting. Te CAG will set aside approximately 1 hour for the session.

Michael Echanove received a letter from PBAC, saying they have considered the three recommendations from the CAG. Michael read the letter (see attached).

Julie announced a meeting of the researchers at WSU to get input for future research target or goals, and ground water is one of them. She wants to attend and to indicate that she is a representative of the CAG which was supported by the group.

Next Meeting: April 17, 6pm, at the Jacks Creek Room, U of I Facilities.
Agenda Items:

Adjourned at 8:00 pm.