

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of April 12, 2007

MEETING NOTES

Attendance:

Members present:
Michael Echanove Dan Boone
Jerry Fairley Jim Mital
George Grader

Helen Harrington, IDWR, ex-officio

Members Excused:

Joe Spoonemore
Mark Loiaza

Members Absent:

Kirk O'Reilly

Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC
David Hall, PWCN

Approval of minutes:

The March 1, 2007 minutes were approved as corrected.

PBAC Report & Update (March 15 meeting): Steve Robischon.

- Discussion regarding a planned synoptic water level measurement included an announcement that the Washington DOE has volunteered to conduct preliminary well log screening for candidate wells. Once identified, PBAC will provide support by initiating contact with well owners and conducting initial site visits to determine whether water levels can be measured.
- PBAC approved continuing to utilize student researchers as resources for the shallow and deep water level monitoring programs.
- Robischon handed out a draft call for proposals for next year's PBAC research projects, and asked that all interested parties provide input related to questions they feel should be addressed in the research. Robischon will send a copy of the RFP via email to CAG members, and members can distribute as they see fit. In order for PBAC to adequately consider input, if possible submissions should be made prior to PBAC's April 19 meeting.
- The group discussed updated status on the Hawkins transfer applications.

IDWR: Helen Harrington

- Idaho governor Otter will convene a water summit meeting April 17 in Burley. Les MacDonald has been selected as an invited member, and Joe Kline as an alternate.
- A May 8-9 Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Study Results and Policy Summit will be held in Spokane Valley. It will be two days, first a summary of data, the second a management day. More information is on the WSDOE web site (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ero/svrp_summit.html). Attendance is free, but early registration is encouraged. Over 100 have already registered.
- Dave Tuthill remains the Acting Director of IDWR, and there has been no word on a search for a permanent Director
- Fairley raised a concern from the petitioners that they have received no response to a letter to IDWR proposing a compromise on the Moscow Cemetery District water right application. Harrington will relay the petitioners' concern to Bob Haynes.

Open Forum:

- It was announced that Bill French has sent letters to Pullman Mayor Johnson and Moscow Mayor Chaney (2) related to conservation. Discussion ensued about the difficulties of implementing a regional approach to conservation.
- CAG membership was discussed. Ben McLuen, Bill Brock and Bill Elliot have resigned. George Grader has replaced Bill Elliot. The group approved a motion to request that PBAC approve the addition to CAG of Fritz Fiedler in the vacant "technical" representation spot and Bill (or Dianne) French in the vacant "other" position. Echanove volunteered to contact Fritz Hughes of the Pullman Chamber of Commerce to discuss potential representation from the Pullman business community.
- Fairley announced a panel discussion to be held April 30 (7:00, Moscow 1912 Building). The discussion will be sponsored by PWCN, Palouse Group of The Sierra Club of the Palouse, and Moscow Civic Association. The tentative discussion topic will be "What do we need to know to manage our resources sustainably?" The panel will consist of 4 or 5 knowledgeable community members, each of whom will speak for 10 minutes, followed by a 1 hour question and answer session.
- Aaron Ament, chairman of the Water Summit Organization Coordination and Management Working Group, has invited the CAG to participate. Echanove solicited volunteer CAG representation in the group. Echanove and Fairley will attend the next meeting of the group, scheduled for April 18 between 11:30 and 1:30 at the Moscow City Council Chambers.

Business:

- At a recent PWCN meeting, petitioners discussed the 12/1/2004 Director's Order in response to the 11/21/2003 request. The order states that the IDWR Director will annually review ground water levels and conditions in the Palouse Basin aquifer system. As the petitioners have not seen evidence of a review, for either the 2005 or the 2006 calendar year, they are now calling for an annual progress

report from IDWR. Harrington suggested that the best way to transmit such a desire would be through a letter to the Director of IDWR.

- The petitioners are proposing that the CAG go to the entities with 6 specific suggestions:
 - Adopt true conservation-motivated rate structures.
 - Enact a true water season.
 - Require xeriscaping standards in all new developments.
 - Require rainwater collection and/or soil moisture monitoring for new sprinkler systems.
 - Prohibit watering of or runoff from concrete.
 - Require city buildings to install water efficient fixtures.Fairley will initiate further discussion of the suggestions at the next CAG meeting.

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007, at 7 pm, in the Jacks Creek Room, U of I Facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.