

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of April 17, 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		
Julie Titone	Petitioning Group	X		
Dr. Jim Mital	Water Conservation Group	X		
Joe Spoonemore	Rural Interests – WA	X		
Vacant	Rural Interests – ID			
Dan Boone	Developer/Business – WA		X	
Mark Loaiza	Developer/Business - ID		X	
Dr. Jerry Fairley	Technical Representative	X		
Ree Brannon	Other		X	
Vacant	Other			
Keith Stoffel	WSDOE, ex-officio		X	
Ken Neilly	IDWR, ex-officio			X

Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC

Mark Storey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Echanove at 6:20 pm

Approval of minutes: The March 27, 2008 minutes were approved as amended to reflect a minor correction. It was motioned by Jerry Fairley to approve the minutes. Julie Titone seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Latah County could not make the meeting tonight, and will attempt to re-schedule for another meeting.

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 today.

- PBAC voted to accept the recommendations of CAG regarding the CAG membership changes.

- There was a 3-D modeling presentation (originating with Dr Osiensky) to show a visualization of the aquifer characteristics. This will be proposed to IDWR for modeling of Idaho basins. The model is based on data from boreholes and other technical data. The demonstration was received well by PBAC members. There was a discussion regarding the effectiveness of performing large scale seismic studies across the basin. This was ultimately rejected due to cost.
- Discussed the overall goals of PBAC. This was a continuation of last months' discussion. It was decided to attempt to refine the draft "action plan" from PBAC in 2001, modifying it for current timelines and proposed projects. Still working on it.
- PBAC is considering the funding of new projects. It was resolved to make a recommendation to the WRIA to propose funding the "Tritium" measurements of the GRAS. The one that was approved was to continue Grande Ronde monitoring. This would include an ASR impacts study along with the monitoring.
- Pullman has been running the low-flow toilet rebate program for about 3 weeks, and has had 55 applications since starting. The City considers the program a success so far (offering up to \$125 per facility).
- DOE mass measurement of water levels in private wells will occur in the month or so, to determine if they can identify the water surface.
- Moscow mayor has announced their "Wisescape" program to help encourage water savings in landscaping, and have challenged other cities to do the same.
- PBAC budget is flush. Excess of \$170,000 for this fiscal year.

Water Conservancy Board: (Joe Spoonemore)

- No real new news.
- Currently working on bylaws. DOE representative currently looking at the draft bylaws. The big issue is the hold-harmless for the board members. The state will not back the members.
- The Cornelius case is going through the system. There is a lot of testimony for both WSU and Cornelius. DOE is saying that there is little chance that Cornelius will be affected by WSU activities. The decision should be coming out soon.

IDWR: (Unofficial Report)

- No official report
- Fairley has a little information on the visualization project. He discussed the project with Helen Harrington. IDWR is looking at the visualization tools to be used in the Idaho basin studies.

Open Forum Discussion:

- Moscow's watering ordinance will announce the "watering" season by May 1. The declaration will be made by the Public Works Director.
- Julie Titone suggested that PBAC should consider hiring a permanent public outreach person to start educating the public about conservation (utilizing a portion of their excess budget). This would be targeted at the adults in the basin, rather than only toward school children. The outreach should have a budget, scope, etc. There was some engaged discussion regarding the concept. It seems that conservation would be considered more seriously by people if there is a paid person to promote the advantages. There should be

an official proposal to PBAC about the concept. Moscow already employs a person to promote conservation (Nicole). Moscow also contracts with PCEI to do outreach. We should try to invite the Moscow Conservation officer to one of the meetings to talk about how CAG could proceed in outreach. Steve Robischon will contact Nicole to see if she would attend the next meeting.

- Julie did not get a chance to develop the letter to the City of Pullman talking about the toilet rebate program, conservation measures, and considering a tiered rate structure in the future. There was great deal of discussion about whether CAG or PBAC would be best to contact entities to note their good work in conservation. Maybe it would be best if CAG make a formal suggestion to PBAC (and its individual entities) to acknowledge (commend) individual entities when successful conservation efforts and actions are employed. Julie volunteered to draft a letter to PBAC. Michael motioned that Julie prepare the draft letter. Spoonemore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Hawkins: no real news. There is currently no word on whether Hawkins will connect to Moscow sewer.
- Fairley brought up issue of U. of I. sustainability group meeting on April 26, and whether CAG would like to attend or participate. It will be at the SUB? Would CAG like to set up a table or outreach. It will be a meeting of grass roots groups, students and student clubs involved. The discussion included the need of some talking points or display items. The group seemed to think that it would not work at this time.
- Robischon reported on the recent systems dynamics modeling workshop. The group will refine the model further before the next meeting on May 2.
- Michael Echanove sent out a note on the KWSU broadcast regarding the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer issues. George Grader saw some of the program, and said it was a good show. George seemed to think it was not really applicable to our issues here.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: May 8, 6:15pm, at the Jacks Creek Room, U of I Facilities.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm.