

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) – Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting of May 3, 2007

MEETING NOTES

Attendance:

Members present:

Michael Echanove	Dan Boone
Jerry Fairley	Jim Mital
George Grader	Bill French
Mark Loaiza	Kirk O'Reilly

Ex Officio Member

Helen Harrington (telephonically)

Members Excused:

Joe Spoonemore
Fritz Fiedler
Keith Stoffel

Guests:

Steve Robischon, PBAC
David Hall, PWCN

Approval of minutes:

The April 12, 2007 minutes were approved as corrected.

PBAC Report & Update (April 19 meeting): Steve Robischon.

- The \$250K Framework project will be discussed during a prioritization session at the May 9 WRIA 34 Planning Unit meeting. (Fairley reported he had presented last month to the group and was impressed by their involvement and knowledge)
- PBAC passed motion to submit three projects for consideration by the WRIA 34 Planning Unit. In decreasing order of PBAC priority: The \$250K Framework Project, a project to drill a monitoring well at Cunningham Farm, and a project to drill monitoring wells in the Kamiak and Four Mile gaps.
- Scanned copies of information related to the Hawkins water right transfer applications can be accessed via the PBAC web site (http://www.uidaho.edu/pbac/wr/hawkins_index.htm).
- PBAC has agreed to an interim data release policy where, upon receipt of a written request for information, PBAC will notify the generating entity of the substance of the request and the requestor, and provide the information to the requestor.
- The UI has expressed the need to renegotiate the administrative agreement with PBAC. The current agreement was negotiated in 1994, and the new agreement will likely involve an indirect overhead charge against PBAC expenditures.

- Robischon reported on the status of the PBAC request for research proposals. Several in the group expressed concerns with the limited response to the questionnaire. Additional concerns involved the design of the questionnaire and its implementation. Robischon agreed to re-issue the questionnaire and provide PBAC and CAG members another opportunity to respond (prior to May 9).
- Colfax water use for the months of January-March in 2007 is down 11.7 million gallons (24%) from 2005. Rogers reported that the savings are primarily due to identifying and fixing leaks and conservation.

IDWR: Helen Harrington

- No significant concrete results were generated from the recent Governor's Water Summit in Burley.
- Many in the Department are extremely busy addressing issues related to calls from surface water rights holder in southern Idaho and potential (barring agreements otherwise prior to May 14) curtailment orders.
- Dave Tuthill has been appointed permanent Director of IDWR.
- The Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Study Results and Policy Summit will be held in Spokane Valley May 8th and 9th. The first day will be mainly a summary of study results, and the second a management/policy day. Harrington encouraged attendance, especially at the second day, as it will provide a rare opportunity to observe the interactions between Directors from both Idaho and Washington (Grader and Boone indicated they will likely attend). 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 200 have already registered.
- The PWCN letter related to the Moscow Cemetery District application has been received by IDWR. There was no news to report on the status of the application.

Open Forum:

- Status of the Hawkins transfer applications was discussed. The Whitman County Water Conservancy Board meeting scheduled for May 14 has been postponed, likely until June.
- French reported on events related to the letter PWCN had sent to the mayors of Pullman and Moscow. Barney Waldrop wrote a response letter on behalf of Pullman summarizing their current conservation efforts. No response was received from the Moscow Mayor. French presented the letter at an April 23 Moscow Administrative Committee meeting, where Les MacDonald also handed out information on last summer's pumping. As there was insufficient time to discuss the issue further, the item will appear on the agenda at the next Administrative Committee meeting.
- Fairley reported on the sustainability panel discussion held April 30 at the Moscow 1912 Building. Four panelists (Fairley, Fiedler, French and Barbara Cosens) each provided opening statements and then engaged in a dialogue with audience members. Fairley, French and Hall agreed the event went well, and was marked by the audience's desire for continuing positive action toward addressing sustainability of the water resource.

- Echanove, Fairley and French attended the April 18 meeting of the Water Summit Coordinating Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16. Fairley noted that he, Fiedler and French plan to regularly attend the meetings and that the CAG will be well represented.
- Fairly moved that the CAG write a letter to PBAC in support of the new, more open research proposal selection process. A reservation was expressed related to the lack of an integrated system-level needs evaluation as part of the PBAC process. The group passed the motion (one opposed) to issue the letter. Fairley agreed to draft the letter.
- The group reported on the water related activities they have participated in during the past month. Echanove noted that there is much activity in the water arena.

Business:

- The group continued discussion of the petitioners' proposal 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.
 Discussion focused upon the first item, and how best to approach its implementation. As the meeting was running long, the item was tabled for further discussion next month.

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2007, at 7 pm, at the UI Facilities Services Center, in the Jacks Creek Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.