



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

University of Idaho PO Box 443011

Moscow, ID 83844-3011

Phone: (208) 885-4569 Fax: (208) 885-6431

pbac@uidaho.edu www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac

May 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Moscow UI Facilities Services Center, Ponderosa Room

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Coordinator	X	WSU: Joe Kline, Project Engineer
X	UI: Brian Johnson, Assistant Vice President, Facilities		WSU: Rob Corcoran, Asst Dir, Arch, Engr & Const Services
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn (Chair), Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman, Director of Public Works
	Moscow: Aaron Ament, City Council Member		Pullman: Art Garro, Maintenance & Operations Superintendent
	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works	X	Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
	Latah County: Tom Townsend, Citizen and County Representative	X	Whitman County: Mark Storey (Vice Chair), County Engineer
X	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Jerry Finch, County Commissioner
X	Colfax: Emily Adams, City Administrator	X	Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Ex officio Members

Bob Haynes, IDWR

Visitors and Others

Farida Leek, WSU; Derek Holom, UI; Donald Ball; Earl Bennett, CAG; J.S. Oldow, UI; Jim Osiensky, UI; John Bush, UI; David Hall, Palouse Water Conservation Network; Alyssa Douglas, Golder; Joe Spoonemore, CAG; Kathleen Warnick; Stacey Douglas, UI; Larry Kirkland, PBAC; Steve Robischon, PBAC.

Call to Order

Tom Scallorn, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

1) Approval of the March 16 and April 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes –

The March draft minutes were approved by consensus with no corrections.

The April draft minutes were approved with a single clarification.

2) PBAC Project Progress Reports

Jim Osiensky reported progress on the shallow aquifer monitoring/testing and the UI #2 projects. The Elk's golf course data logger has been downloaded and steps are being

taken to clarify the reasons behind the Elk's request to pull the data logger from their well and deny permission to continue the studies on the golf course. This summer tests will be conducted at the ground water field laboratory to further understand the connections between Paradise Creek, the sediments of Bovill and the Wanapum. The UI #2 well is being continually monitored, and a series of dye tracer tests are planned to attempt to quantify the flow between the Wanapum and the Vantage sediments.

Stacey Douglas reported the results of an April 11, 2006 pump test. The test began with all major wells shut off between 8:00 and 12:00. At noon pumping began at Pullman 7 for three hours. Five hours into the test, UI 3 and Moscow 9 were turned on. At 7:00 PM, Moscow 9 was turned off and Pullman 3, 5, 6 and 7 were turned on. Monitoring of water levels in nearby wells indicated connections between Pullman 7, Pullman 3, and the WSU test well, as well as between Moscow 9, UI 3, and the DOE well. No obvious connection was found between the Cornelius well (approx 1 mile south and east of the Pullman wells) and the Pullman or Moscow wells. Also, there was no obvious connection between the Moscow and Pullman wells found in this test.

Farida Leek presented the results of her thesis research. The goal of her research was to develop a foundation applicable to future ground water resources assessment and management efforts. It involved collecting available information on ground water levels, well logs, and pumpage, as well as a host of other physical variables for the basin. From the data she was able to construct long-term hydrographs, structural and potentiometric surface contour maps, and hydrogeological cross sections. She also compiled reference information on over 400 research documents applicable to the basin. Farida has drawn several conclusions from the data, including an indication of weak vertical connection between the Wanapum and the Grande Ronde and a general pattern of the ground water level dipping from the southeast to northwest. She also pointed out that differences in basin characteristics may help reveal basin sub-units that might be utilized for future modeling efforts, and warned against employing a generalized model that does not take into account the spatial variation of stratigraphic, structural, and geohydrologic characteristics. Farida recommended that the database she has compiled needs to be continually updated and that further work should proceed toward modeling and continued compilation of research references.

Derek Holom presented the results of his thesis research on the delineation of the pre-basalt basement geometry near Kamiak Butte. The motivations for Derek's research were to attempt to better understand the extent of subsurface linkage and hydrologic connection between Palouse and Moscow and Palouse and Pullman. Derek conducted extensive gravity surveys and created models from which he was able to construct cross sections of the subsurface geology in the vicinity of Kamiak Gap. Results of the modeling led Derek to conclude that the maximum depth to basement in the area is approximately 300 meters, the average thickness of the loess is about 30 meters, the Wanapum thickness ranges from 30 to 50 meters, the Latah sediments range in thickness between 60 and 100 meters, and that the Grande Ronde is not continuous through the gap. There is uncertainty about whether there are connections between Palouse and Moscow or Palouse and Pullman.

Added Agenda Item – Water Right Permit Applications Report

Larry Kirkland reported on two new water right applications forwarded to PBAC for comment from IDWR. The Moscow cemetery is requesting a water right permit to switch from city water to a well. The new well will be in the Wanapum and will not result in the use of more water but merely a switch from primarily Grande Ronde city water to all Wanapum well water. Kirkland recommended that PBAC not comment in opposition to the application. The second application is from Frank Hill for a permit to irrigate 80 acres for dairy and non-dairy cattle south of Paradise Ridge. Kirkland pointed out that the well location is outside the basin boundary as currently drawn and that the well is in granite, and he recommended that PBAC not comment in opposition to the application.

3) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Report

Tom Scallorn reported that Ben McLuen has been appointed as a new CAG member to represent Idaho business interests and that Jay Eliason has resigned his position representing technical interests. Also, Joe Spoonemore is stepping down as CAG chairman, and Helen Harrington will no longer be able to provide note taking support to the group. CAG has requested that PBAC provide note taking support. It was agreed that either the PBAC chair or vice-chair will attend each CAG meeting and take notes, and Latah County will provide support in transcribing the notes into group minutes.

4) Budget Report

The budget report was deferred to item 7 (New Business)

5) Other Reports and Announcements

Jan Boll reported on the new Water of the West (WoW) program at UI. WoW has received funding for a 5 year program to develop an interdisciplinary graduate (MS and PhD) program in water resources. The program will study of not only the physical sciences, but also the economic, legal, policy and social aspects of water resource management. The program will include an integrated case study component, the pilot of which will focus on the Palouse basin. Jan stated that a group of faculty will be visiting with stakeholder groups during the next months to gain a greater understanding of the issues in the area.

Robischon reported on a recent tour of the proposed new Troy reservoir site. The site is downstream from the current reservoir and may have the capacity to store in the vicinity of 250 million gallons. Troy is currently in the process of applying for the necessary permits and seeking funding support from external agencies.

Robischon reported that the IDWR Monitoring Well Field #2 project has issued a notice of intent to proceed with awarding the contract to H2O Services out of Hayden Lake. If all goes well, drilling could begin in early June.

Tom Stroschein reported that the Phase II bid for the Hydrogeological Characterization of the Moscow Sub-basin Project came in over budget, and that the Latah County

Commissioners are deferring a decision until 5/22. It appears however, that the piezometer installation portion of the project will not be funded, so Tom noted that in the future he may be asking PBAC for support in converting one of the wells into a permanent monitoring point.

Robischon reported that a researcher roundtable meeting had been held the first week of May. Discussion was wide ranging, but there appeared to be consensus among the group that continued work to aggregate and make existing data available to the researchers is important.

Robischon passed out a summary sheet of the projects the WRIA 34 Planning Unit has submitted to the Washington legislature for funding in the 2007-2009 biennium. He noted that several of the projects may be of direct benefit to PBAC, and that WRIA will likely approach PBAC for cost sharing, partnering, or other support should the projects be funded.

6) Unfinished Business

Joe Kline reported that his group is working on filling the open CAG Idaho small municipal provider representative position, but had no progress to report.

Larry Kirkland reported that there may be an opportunity to have access to an Americorps volunteer for the summer to work on validating well locations. The volunteer would be available for 3 months, and would require \$3,000 - \$4,000 direct funding support, as well as either a vehicle or mileage compensation. PBAC decided that, as funding is tight, they are not in a position to pursue this opportunity at this time.

Discussion of the draft PBAC goals created at the April meeting was deferred to next month's meeting.

7) New Business

Robischon reported the details of the \$3,500 administrative fee PBAC provides to UI for contract and budget administration, and limited secretarial support. The group approved issuance of a letter from PBAC to IWRRI stating its desire to continue the current agreement.

Robischon passed out a budget report detailing year to date expenditures and projected FY07 budgets and assessments under three scenarios: Continuation of current administrative and research assessments, a 150% increase in administrative assessments with continuation of current research assessments, and a 150% increase in both administrative and research assessments.

After some discussion, it was moved and approved that in FY07 a 150% increase in administrative assessments and no change in research assessments be invoiced to all PBAC member entities.

It was also noted that the change in the absolute dollar figures for the assessment may require a modification to the interentity agreement, that for the interim the current voting structure be maintained, and that further discussion should be conducted at next month's meeting.

8) Next Meeting Date

June 15, 2006

Moscow UI Facilities Services Center, Jack's Creek Meeting Room

9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Minutes were reviewed and approved by PBAC members at the June 15, 2006 meeting.

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager

May 2006 Budget Summary

		** Assessment Scenarios FY07 (7/1/2006 thru 6/30/2007)				
		* FY06 (thru 6/30/06)	Current Schedule	Current + 100% Admin	Current + 150% Admin	Current +100% Admin + 100% Research
Beginning Balance		\$108,005	\$116,734	\$116,734	\$116,734	\$116,734
Admin/Ops Assessments		\$38,000	\$38,000	\$76,000	\$95,000	\$76,000
Admin/Ops Expenses		\$49,220	\$74,339	\$74,339	\$74,339	\$74,339
Admin/Ops Subtotal		(\$11,220)	(\$36,339)	\$1,661	\$20,661	\$1,661
Research Assessments		\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$160,000
Research Expenses/Commitments		\$60,051	\$118,948	\$118,948	\$118,948	\$118,948
Research Subtotal		\$19,949	(\$38,948)	(\$38,948)	(\$38,948)	\$41,052
Ending Balance		\$116,734	\$41,447	\$79,447	\$98,447	\$159,447

* FY06 Research Expenses Include Prior Year Project Commitment Carryovers

** FY07 Research Expenses Include Outyear Project Commitments and Cunningham Well Field (\$50,000)

		Assessments						
		Current Admin	Current Research	Current (Total)	Current + 100% Admin (Total)	Current + 150% Admin (Total)	Current +100% Admin + 100% Research (Total)	
Whitman County		\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	Whitman
Latah County		\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	Latah
Pullman		\$8,000	\$20,000	\$28,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$56,000	Pullman
Moscow		\$8,000	\$20,000	\$28,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$56,000	Moscow
Colfax		\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	Colfax
Washington State		\$8,000	\$20,000	\$28,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$56,000	WSU
University of Idaho		\$8,000	\$20,000	\$28,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$56,000	UI
Total				\$118,000	\$156,000	\$175,000	\$236,000	

May 2006 Budget Summary

Expenses/Commitments	Prior Year *	FY06	Posted thru 5/1/06	Out Years**
Administrative / Operations		\$49,220.46	\$35,037.55	\$74,338.68
Geophysical Study (Holom)	\$18,518.51		\$16,390.25	
Mapping (Bush)	\$1,714.80		\$1,714.80	
Deep Aquifer Monitoring (McVay)	\$16,817.31		\$16,200.88	
Cunningham Well Field				\$50,000.00
Shallow Aquifer Monitoring (Badon)	\$17,745.12		\$15,728.09	
Hydrostatigraphy Evaluation (Osiensky)	\$7,311.51			
Passive Drainage Well (Opatz)		\$21,500.00	\$21,688.67	\$23,500.00
Database / GIS/ Model (Wu/Leek)	\$22,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$32,914.95	
Deep Aquifer Monitoring Cont. (Douglas)		\$8,796.00	\$5,701.14	\$27,103.00
Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Cont. (Hernandez)		\$7,755.00	\$5,710.88	\$18,345.00
Shallow Aquifer Drought Level Monitoring (Nimmer)		\$5,000.00	\$3,932.95	
Commitments/Expenses Subtotal	\$84,107.25	\$109,271.46	\$155,020.16	\$193,286.68

*** Remaining to Spend - FY06 \$38,358.55

* Prior Year commitments include previously funded projects with expenses carrying over into FY06

** Out Year commitments include project agreements, Cunningham Well Field, executive mgr, technical advisor thru 6/07

*** (Prior + Current Year) Commitments - YTD Expenses

WRIA 34 Watershed Planning and Implementation Project Budget Request
2007-2009 Biennium

- Pullman ASR Feasibility Study - \$250,000
- Palouse Aquifer Water Chemical Analysis Study - \$100,000
- Gaging Station Installation - \$360,000
- WRIA 34 Implementation Support - \$50,000
- Increased Access to Federal Implementation Funding - \$150,000
- WRIA 34 Planning Unit Participation Insurance (ISF and TMDL) - \$100,000
- Conservation Tillage Aquifer Recharge Program Development - \$100,000
- Cow Creek Well Decommissioning and Casing Project - \$250,000