



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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December 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, Senior Lounge

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus (Chair), Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Keith Bloom , (alt Mike Leonas) Director, Const Servs, Cap Plan Dev
X	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Rob Corcoran, Asst Dir, Arch, Engr & Const Services
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn, Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman (Vice Chair), Director of Public Works
	Moscow: Aaron Ament, City Council Member		Pullman: Art Garro, Maintenance & Operations Superintendent
X	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works	X	Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
X	Latah County: Paul Kimmell, Citizen and County Representative	X	Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Jerry Finch, County Commissioner
X	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Jerry Fairley, CAG; Alyssa Douglas, Golder; Mimi Wainwright, Ecology; Cheryl Morgan, Self; Rob Buchert, Palouse Conservation District; Dan Boone, CAG; Bob Haynes, IDWR; John Foltz, WSU Student; Jeff Ullman, WSU; Suzanne Hamada, Palouse Conservation District; Ree Brannon, CAG; Jana Mathis, Whitman County Gazette; Michael Echanove, CAG; George Grader, CAG; Jim Mital, CAG, Keith Stoffel, Ecology/CAG; Evan Sheffels, Ecology; Kevin Lilly, City of Moscow; Steve Robischon, PBAC.

Call to Order

Mark Workman, PBAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1) Approval of the November 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The November minutes were approved by consensus after completing items 2 and 3 of the agenda.

2) Presentations

PBAC – Where We’ve Been, Where We’re At, and Where We’re Going –

Robischon presented historical information related to ground water management on the Palouse and summaries of three projects PBAC has proposed/supported through the WRIA watershed plan implementation process. Wainwright indicated there is potential for DOE provision of \$100K to \$200K for updating the initial design of the Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reuse and Reclamation project.

Palouse Watershed Planning Process –

Buchert reviewed the history of the WRIA 34 watershed planning process and previewed activities that will be part of Phase IV (Implementation)

3) Discussion

Following the presentations there ensued a general discussion of water management in the basin and how best to coordinate efforts with Ecology and the State of Washington. Evan Sheffels, Special Assistant for Water Policy, provided insights as to avenues that might be pursued and approaches that may be successful in securing funding for projects. Sheffels will relay the message from the Palouse to Olympia and will support continuing efforts to fund projects through the watershed planning process. Haynes will work with Stoffel and Gregory to provide information to Washington decision makers related to Idaho’s recent and planned contributions toward better characterization of the resource.

4) Other Reports and Announcements

CAG Recommendation Review

Robischon displayed summaries of the three CAG recommendations made to date, and will provide copies to the group in advance of the January meeting for review.

DOE Synoptic Measurement Front-end Logistics

Property ownership information and aerial photography have been obtained from Whitman County for the candidate wells. A services agreement has been placed with Nancy Hoobler at the Palouse Conservation District. Hoobler will contact the well owners, request well access/measurement permission, and conduct preliminary site visits to evaluate whether the wells will be measureable. Storey will provide wellhead elevation surveys for City of Pullman and WSU wells prior to their measurement and for the other wells after measurement has been completed.

USGS 104(b) Grant Request for Proposals

Robischon displayed results from the electronic voting on two potential proposals. In order to qualify for a grant, each federal dollar must be matched by 2 non-federal dollars. A proposal to do tritium age dating in conjunction with Grande Ronde monitoring project was approved for funding by PBAC, with PBAC’s contributions going to fund a graduate student project similar to those currently in progress. PBAC also voted to participate in a collaborative systems dynamics model development project in which PBAC’s contribution will come in the form of in-kind time commitments by PBAC participants.

Time commitments were pledged by Moscow, Pullman, UI, Latah and Whitman counties.

Water Summit Planning Report

The 2008 Water Summit has been scheduled for October 7. Brannon reported that the Summit is currently envisioned as made up of three sessions: a morning session focusing upon technical information, an afternoon session focused upon conservation and targeting decision makers, and an evening session again focused upon conservation but this time targeting the general public. As the Palouse Conservation District will not be coordinating the activities, the plan is to distribute the planning tasks to multiple members of the planning committee. Morgan noted that last year's organizing efforts consumed the equivalent of \$6K in personnel time, and funding support from agencies would be welcomed.

Appeal of WSU Consolidation Transfer Requests

Stoffel reported on the status of the Cornelius et al appeal to the WSU requests. The case involves 18 legal issues, of which 15 have been decided on summary judgement (in favor of respondents DOE/WSU) by the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB). Remaining issues to be considered include questions of impairment, enlargement, and the as-applied WA municipal water law. Hearings are scheduled for January 2008 in Pullman.

Appeal of DOE Affirmations/Denial of Hawkins Transfer Requests

Stoffel reported on the status of appeals. The City of Moscow has appealed the three approved transfers, and Hawkins has appealed the denied transfer. DOE and Hawkins are conducting settlement discussions related to the mitigation plan associated with the denied Jones (SF surface water to Hawkins Wanapum water) transfer. All four cases have been consolidated and hearings before the PCHB are scheduled for June 2008 in Spokane.

Budget Report

Robischon reported the budget is in fine shape.

PBAC Projects Progress Report

Robischon reported projects are progressing as planned.

WRIA 34 Planning Unit Report

Wainwright reported that the planning unit and DOE are processing contracts that are required to formally initiate Phase IV of the process. It is currently envisioned that the Planning Unit will utilize a consultant to help facilitate the development of the detailed implementation plan.

9) Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of PBAC is scheduled for

January 17, 2008

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

10) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the January 17, 2008 Meeting

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager