



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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March 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

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

Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus (Vice Chair), Water Systems Manager		WSU:
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		Pullman: Mark Workman, Director of Public Works
X	Moscow: Aaron Ament, City Council Member	X	Pullman: Art Garro, Maintenance & Operations Superintendent
	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 (Chair), 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

Ex officio Member
Guy Gregory, DOE

Visitors and Others

David Hall, PWCN; Stacey Douglas, Golder Associates, Inc; Cheryl Morgan, Self;
Kathleen Warnick; Bill French, PWCN; Kirk O'Reilly, PBAC-CAG; Steve Robischon,
PBAC.

Call to Order

Mark Storey, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1) Approval of the February 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Unfinished Business

Synoptic Water Level Measurement – Candidate Well Identification

Larry Kirkland was not present at the meeting, and Mark Storey announced that Larry is stepping back from his PBAC activities to concentrate upon pressing family issues.

General discussion ensued about the scope of the project, and Gregory volunteered the assistance of DOE personnel to identify candidate wells. Identification could be completed by this coming fall. Once wells are identified, well owners will need to be contacted for permission to access the wells, and site visits conducted to determine whether measurement is feasible. The Committee agreed to accept DOE's generous offer and proceed with the project, keeping in mind that PBAC will likely need to allocate resources in the future.

DOE \$250 K Placeholder

Storey reported that the project was presented to the WRIA-34 Planning Unit for consideration at its last meeting. At next month's meeting Jerry Fairley will present details of the project scope. The Committee approved a motion to support the project and to recommend that the Planning Unit accept it into the WRIA-34 Watershed Plan and assign it a high priority for near-term implementation. In addition, as the potential funding source for the project has changed, it was suggested that in the future the project be referred to as "The Framework Project" rather than the "DOE \$250K Placeholder".

Wastewater Reclamation Project Letters of Support

Robischon announced that support letters had been written by PBAC, Latah County, and Moscow. The PBAC and Latah County letters were sent to Senators Schoesler, Fraser, and Brandland, and Governor Gregoire. The Moscow letter was sent to DOE Director Manning, with copies to the Washington State Legislative District 9 representatives, DOE Regional Director Pfeifer, IDWR Interim Director Tuthill, Pullman Mayor Johnson, Moscow City Council, PBAC, and CAG.

Monitoring Projects/Resources

Robischon presented information from the Ground Water Management Plan describing PBAC's responsibility to conduct monitoring and research in the Basin. Discussion continued of two options of how to accomplish and fund the tasks. Accomplishment options involved employee and student-researcher resources, and funding through the administrative or research budget. The Committee approved a motion to continue to utilize student-researcher resources to accomplish the monitoring. Kline emphasized the need to align future research efforts toward answering questions that will be pivotal to the successful implementation of on the ground solutions to Basin water quantity challenges.

Conservation Information for CAG

Robischon reported that information has been received from Colfax, Pullman, Moscow and WSU. The Pullman, Moscow and WSU information has been forwarded to the CAG, and Colfax will provide their information upon receipt of a request.

3) New Business

Hawkins Companies Transfer Request Information

Robischon reported that the applicant submitted additional materials in support of their transfer applications to the Whitman County Water Conservancy Board at a March 7 meeting. The transfer applications now involve two wells at the Stateline Project site, one in the Wanapum and the other in the Grande Ronde. The existing surface water right

will transfer to the Wanapum well, and the Pullman ground water rights will transfer to the Grande Ronde well. The transfer package also includes a ground water transfer from a place of use near LaCrosse to the City of Colton.

Data Release Policies

Discussion of this topic continued from last month's meetings. Storey suggested that PBAC needs to create a policy, and Kimmell volunteered to work with Storey and any other interested PBAC members toward that end.

4) PBAC Projects Progress Report

Robischon reported that work continues on the PBAC projects. A complication has arisen related to the compensation of data logger information for barometric effects. This is hampering researchers' ability to interpret water level fluctuations during pump tests.

5) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Robischon reported that the CAG continues discussions related to conservation. Storey and O'Reilly added details. It was noted that the draft CAG minutes are posted to the PBAC site so members can learn more about CAG discussions. PBAC members will consider whether their draft minutes might be posted to the web for more timely access to the discussions.

6) Budget Report

Robischon summarized the current status of the budget. Current budget projections indicate a deficit of approximately \$60,000 for FY07. Assuming current research deficits are eliminated, continued overexpending the administrative budget will exhaust PBAC reserves in approximately two years.

7) Other Reports and Announcements

North Idaho Adjudication Legislation

Kimmell reported that an attempt to limit the adjudication to the Rathdrum area failed in the Idaho Legislature, and that further town hall type informational meetings will be conducted, likely in the late May time frame.

Rain Water Harvest Demonstration Grant

Robischon reported that the UI Department of Landscape Architecture has received a \$10,000 grant to construct a rain water harvest demonstration garden at the Art and Architecture building on campus. Kline and Holthaus provided additional details of the planned project.

Water Summit Org. and Coord. Water Management Working Group Meeting

Robischon reported that the group met and is continuing planning efforts for this year's (October 2) Summit. Ament has been named the new working group chair, and will contact Michael Echanove to solicit CAG participation. Waldrop noted that upcoming meetings are scheduled monthly in Moscow.

Reclaimed Water Workshop

Robischon announced (during discussions of an earlier agenda item) an upcoming June 12 reclaimed water workshop to be held in Seattle (<http://www.pncwa.org>).

Moscow Reservoir Project Reservoir Design Presentations

Robischon reported that 12 presentations had been made (by UI Landscape Architecture students) of conceptual, multi-purpose reservoir designs at a recent event in Moscow. The presentations were recorded, and those wishing to view them should contact the City. Ament added that the designs are in an early stage, and ongoing efforts will include consideration of additional technical details associated with the chosen sites.

WRIA-34 Planning Unit Meeting

Much of the substance of this agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting. Morgan noted that increased communication between PBAC and the WRIA-34 Planning Unit would be beneficial to all.

New Whitman County Land Use Requests

Robischon reported the receipt of three sets of SEPA documents related to new land use requests in Whitman County: A cluster residential project on Sunshine Road, a church on airport Road, and an expansion of a lentil processing facility near Farmington. The requests involve existing or proposed exempt wells.

8) Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of PBAC has been scheduled for

April 19, 2007

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room, 2:00 PM

9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the April 19, 2007 PBAC Meeting,

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager