



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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February 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

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

Ex officio Member
Bob Haynes, IDWR

Visitors and Others

Dan Boone, Port of Whitman Co / CAG; David Hall, PWCN; Bryony Stasney, Golder Associates, Inc; Cheryl Morgon, Self; Rob Buchert, Palouse Conservation District; Crystal Newton, Self; Landon Charlo, Self; Anna Benton, Self; Justin Luafalemana, Self; Joe Smillie, Whitman County Gazette; Steve Robischon, PBAC.

Call to Order

Mark Storey, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

1) Approval of the January 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The January minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Unfinished Business

Synoptic Water Level Measurement – Candidate Well Identification – Kirkland

Larry was not present at the meeting, and this item will be continued on next month's agenda.

DOE \$250 K Placeholder

Rob Buchert reported that Mimi Wainwright had questioned the idea that additional funds might be available from the watershed plan implementation budget, and whether access to any implementation funds prior to adoption (by the counties) of the plan may be possible. Mark Storey suggested that PBAC members contact their legislators to inquire as to the status of the proposed project.

Wastewater Reclamation Project Letters of Support

Robischon handed out a draft letter from PBAC that was approved by the members present. Aaron Ament indicated the Moscow City Council has approved the issuance of a letter of support from the Moscow Mayor, and Tom Stroschein announced the Latah County Commissioners have approved issuing a letter. Robischon was directed to provide committee members with the contact information for the Washington Governor as well as those legislators identified by Michael Echanove and Senator Schoesler. Cheryl Morgan stated her opposition to the project.

Monitoring Projects/Resources

Discussion focused upon how/whether to best continue the Wanapum monitoring project after the current graduate student (Hannah Hernandez) wraps up her research. The issue was tabled until the committee has an opportunity to discuss the PBAC budget and desired future directions.

3) New Business

Water Use Numbers Background

Robischon presented estimates for four example projects describing water use in terms of an equivalent number individuals/households. Committee members directed Robischon to post the information on the PBAC web site.

Hawkins Companies Transfer Requests

Robischon presented a brief overview of the transfer applications related to the proposed Hawkins Companies Stateline Project, and an estimate of whether the amount of water involved exceeds the Whitman County voluntary 125% (of 1990) pumping ceiling. Members will consider the information and be prepared for further discussion when the Whitman County Water Conservancy Board forwards its recommendations to the Washington DOE.

Data Release Policies

Differing perspectives were voiced on the policies to be utilized by PBAC in releasing information provided by member entities, and this item was tabled for further discussion at next month's meeting.

4) PBAC Projects Progress Report

As discussion related to earlier agenda items had run long, Robischon summarized last month's progress for all projects as continuing with no major breakthroughs or setbacks.

5) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Robischon reported that the CAG has taken up conservation as the next topic they will consider. Robischon displayed a letter from the CAG to PBAC requesting information from member entities about their conservation programs, including a description of their effectiveness and estimates of annual water savings. The committee directed Robischon to issue an email to representatives of the member entities informing them of the CAG's request, indicating that any information provided should be sent to Robischon for distribution to the CAG.

6) Budget Report

Robischon summarized the current status of the budget. Current budget projections indicate a deficit of approximately \$60,000 for FY07. Preliminary indications are favorable for increased FY08 assessment payments from Moscow, Pullman, and Whitman and Latah counties.

7) Other Reports and Announcements

Moscow Cemetery District Prehearing Conference

Robischon reported that the Moscow Cemetery District and Moscow and Latah County were not able to resolve their differences at the prehearing conference, and the matter will proceed to a hearing before IDWR, likely sometime in April. Robischon also reported that PWCN has written a letter proposing that, if the District requests only enough water to continue watering the trees (and discontinues watering the grass), the protestants should withdraw their protests. Bob Haynes announced plans to pump test an existing shallow well on the cemetery grounds to test its yield and determine whether a shallow well might alleviate Moscow's concerns with well interference.

Student Presentations – Moscow Reservoir Design Project

Robischon reported that the City of Moscow has arranged for video recording of presentations by the UI landscape architecture students of their multiple use Moscow Reservoir Project designs. The presentations will be made at the Moscow City Council chambers, from 2:30 to 5:00, Friday February 15.

Water Summit Org. and Coord. Management Working Group Meeting

Tom Scallorn and Rob Buchert reported on the subject meeting. Work continues on the web site, and the next Summit has been scheduled for October 2 at the Schweitzer Engineering event center.

Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Study Summit

Robischon announced the subject summit will be held May 8 and 9 in Spokane Valley. Online registration is available at

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ero/svrp_summit_regist.html

Bryony Stasney announced that a “sneak preview” will be presented by Guy Gregory at the Society of Northwest Environmental Scientists (SINES) meeting April 2 at the Shiloh Inn in Spokane

8) Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of PBAC has been scheduled for

March 15, 2007

Moscow Facilities Services Center, Jack’s Creek Meeting Room, 2:00 PM

9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted,

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager

NOTE: *These minutes were approved at the March 15, 2007 PBAC meeting.*



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January 30, 2007

The Honorable _____
Washington State Legislature
PO BOX 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: WSU/Pullman Wastewater Reclamation Project

Dear _____:

I am writing on behalf of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC), a voluntary, multi-jurisdictional group with representatives from the cities, counties, and universities within the Palouse ground water basin region. PBAC would like to express its support of, and enlist your assistance in obtaining state funding for, the WSU/Pullman Wastewater Reclamation Project.

Municipalities within the Palouse basin, as well as nearly all rural residents and businesses, rely solely upon a continuing supply of ground water from the basin aquifers. Declining water levels in the aquifers resulted in the creation of PBAC in 1967 and the implementation of a ground water management plan supported by both the Washington Department of Ecology and the Idaho Department of Water Resources in 1992. This plan calls for continued monitoring of water usage and levels, funding of research projects to better characterize the aquifer systems, and the creation and implementation of a balanced, basin-wide water supply and use program for the Palouse ground water basin region.

One element of the program involves the utilization of reclaimed wastewater within the area. The University of Idaho employs such a system that provides nearly one third of its water needs through the use of water reclaimed from the Moscow wastewater treatment facility for irrigation of much of the UI green space. A similar project has been proposed for WSU/Pullman that could treat up to 1.3 million gallons per day, helping to alleviate the stress upon the declining aquifers and obviate the approaching need to acquire new water rights, construct new wells, and build new storage tanks to serve the growing population in the region.

Much of the work on the WSU/Pullman project has already been accomplished. The project was funded for pre-design by the 2002 Legislature. The initial construction phase was approved by the 2004 legislature, but subsequently vetoed by the governor, citing issues that at the time still needed to be, but have since been addressed by WSU.

PBAC would like to thank you and the Governor for your continued support in addressing critical water issues in the region, and respectfully request that you revisit this important issue and provide state funding for the WSU/Pullman Wastewater Reclamation Project in the budget for the upcoming biennium.

Sincerely,

Mark Storey, Chairman
Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee