



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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June 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes

### Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

#### Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus (Chair), Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas, Project Manager, Capital Planning & Dev.
	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering		WSU: Rob Corcoran, Asst Dir, Arch, Engr & Const Services
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn, Water Dept Superintendent		Pullman: Mark Workman (Vice Chair), Director of Public Works
	Moscow: Walter Steed, 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		Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Jerry Finch, County Commissioner
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Cheryl Morgan, Self/WRIA-34 Planning Unit Member; Suzanne Hamada, Palouse CD/WRIA 34 PU; Guy Gregory, WDOE; Mimi Wainwright, Ecology; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Mike Holthaus, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

#### 1) Approval of the May 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The May minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentation – Monitoring Well Levels Update

Robischon presented information on entity pumping and monitoring well water levels for the first five months of the year. UI and Moscow have pumped less than their 5-year averages for each of the five months. Pullman pumped less than the average in March and April and more in January, February and May. WSU pumped less than average during all but May. Data from the IDWR 4 (750 ft deep Grande Ronde) monitoring well

indicates a water level decline of approximately 1 foot over the past year. Additional daily pumping totals for the large pumping entities was presented for the month of May.

### **3) Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business considered at the meeting.

### **4) New Business – 2008/2009 PBAC Officers**

The group passed motions to appoint Paul Kimmell as vice-chair, and Mark Workman as chairman for the coming fiscal year. Mike Holthaus was thanked for his service as chair during the past year.

### **5) PBAC Projects Progress Report**

Robischon presented information from a data logger in Moscow (240 ft deep Wanapum) Well #2. Water level variations in the well, once processed to remove barometric effects, do not appear to indicate a connection to the nearby Moscow Well #3.

### **6) Citizens Advisory Group Report**

Robischon relayed questions from the last CAG meeting about how Pullman handles single family rental billings (landlord or tenant) and what role the CAG is to play in terms of communication to the community. The group noted that the CAG charter is to provide recommendations to PBAC and not the community at large.

### **7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed the budget and estimated a reserve of approximately \$200,000 at fiscal year end. He also suggested that some of the data loggers are nearing the end of their design life, and a logger replacement plan should be developed and budget set aside to replace aging loggers on a predetermined schedule. Robischon will gather information on the age of the existing loggers and present a replacement plan for consideration at a future meeting.

### **8) Other Reports and Announcements –**

**DOE Synoptic Measurement Logistics** – Gregory reported that he conducted measurements of several of the candidate wells, and plans to continue monitoring of 4 or more wells over the long term. Information from these wells will be combined with that from several of the wells PBAC is monitoring to help DOE develop/validate a conceptual model for the basin. The wells measured by Gregory will need to be surveyed for wellhead elevations.

**Water Summit Planning Report** – Kimmell reported on planning for the upcoming Summit, to be held October 7 in Moscow at the Best Western. He noted that current plans include a leadership conference to be held the day after the Summit, where PBAC members, elected officials and regulators can get together to work toward coordinating water management in the basin.

**Palouse Basin System Dynamics Modeling Project Report** – Kimmell and Robischon reported on a May 30 meeting in which the latest version of the model was demonstrated. The team will work with Kent Keller to validate the model during the next month. The model will be presented at the Water Summit, and the group would like to have PBAC preview the presentation at their September meeting. In order to be able to respond to any PBAC comments, the September PBAC meeting may need to be moved to early in the month.

**SF Palouse River TMDL** – Wainwright reported on an advisory committee kickoff meeting of June 11. The current plan calls for TMDL activities aimed at bacteria, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH and temperature. The process will begin with bacteria, and an initial assessment will likely be reported next month. The assessment will be followed by review and comment, development of an implementation plan, EPA approval, and a detailed implementation plan. The process will then be repeated for DO and pH, and finally temperature.

**WRIA 34 Planning Unit Report** – Hamada reported on the Planning Unit's efforts toward creation of a detailed implementation plan. Planning Unit members are rating each of the projects and assessments contained in the watershed plan, and results from all the ratings will be combined and presented to the group. At that point the group will discuss the aggregate rankings and prioritize the projects/assessments for future funding consideration.

**Hawkins Stateline Project Status** – MacDonald reported that the application for transfer associated with the Hawkins project has been submitted to IDWR, and the joint powers agreement with Whitman County has not yet been finalized.

**Latah County Skyview Estates Subdivision** – Robischon reported on a request from the Latah County planning department to review the information provided in the plat application for the subject project. The Latah County action plan submitted as part of the original Ground Water Management Plan indicated that the county will attempt to limit its annual pumping increases to 1% (of the 1986-1990 average). This translates to approximately 10 houses. The subdivision consists of 25 residential parcels, and Robischon indicated that if the county reports to PBAC that 10 or more homes will be built in any given year, PBAC may need to consider reviewing and commenting upon the action.

**Environmental Checklist for Proposed Williams Place, LLC Development** – Robischon displayed a site drawing for a proposed 20 acre business development in the Pullman-Moscow corridor. The proposal calls for dividing the site into 4 lots, with each lot and conditional use having its own well. Gregory indicated that the project as defined will likely require a water right, as individual lots/uses may not qualify for exemptions. Should this be the case, DOE will provide PBAC with copies of water right application materials, and PBAC may review and comment upon the proposed action.

**9) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the July 17, 2008 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**