



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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March 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes

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

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#### Attendance

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

#### Visitors and Others

David Hall, PWCN; Alyssa Gersdorf, Golder; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Mike Holthaus, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

#### 1) Approval of the February 21, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations – None Scheduled

**3) New Business** (*note: this item was originally scheduled to appear after item 4 below*)

**PBAC Goals Revisited**

Robischon presented a summary of the PBAC goals dating back to 1992, and concluded with recommendations for modifications to the goals for 2008. Considerable discussion ensued, and due to time constraints, the item was continued to a future meeting. Robischon will send a copy of the 2001 20-year timeline to PBAC members for their examination.

**4) Unfinished Business** (*note: this item was originally scheduled to appear before item 3 above*)

**New PBAC Project(s)**

Robischon presented a brief history of the DOE earmark/ framework/ characterization preparation project, and concluded with a recommendation to postpone issuance of an RFP. Considerable discussion ensued regarding potential projects and their priorities, and due to time constraints, the item was continued to a future meeting. Robischon will work on developing a prioritized list of potential PBAC projects.

**5) PBAC Projects Progress Report**

Robischon presented charts provided by Brad Bennett of pumping and water level data associated with the Wanapum Monitoring/Testing project. The project involves an increase in pumping of Moscow Well #2 (initiated November 14, 2007) and subsequent investigation of whether the increased pumping during the high flow season induces additional recharge into the Wanapum aquifer system. A pump breakdown in the well (January 20, 2008) has interrupted the project, but water level data from the Brandt well (approximately ¾ mile north of well #2) shows a water level rise of nearly six feet in the month following the pump breakdown.

**6) Citizens Advisory Group Report**

Robischon reported that the CAG is working to fill several vacant positions, and will provide recommendations to PBAC of citizens to fill the vacancies. Rogers indicated that there may be a citizen in Viola who could qualify for the ID small municipal provider vacancy.

**7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed the current budget status indicating a projected PBAC balance of approximately \$175K at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2008).

**8) Other Reports and Announcements –**

**DOE Synoptic Measurement Logistics** – Robischon presented a spreadsheet indicating that 13 site visits have been conducted to private rural wells in anticipation of a DOE synoptic measurement sometime in April. Measurements of these wells will be combined with those of several WSU and Pullman wells in hopes of gaining a better understanding of the presence of a water level gradient in the Grande Ronde aquifer system.

**WRIA 34 Planning Unit Report** – MacDonald reported that Corcoran had presented the draft WSU water system plan to the planning unit at its last meeting, and Robischon noted that a conference call had been conducted between planning unit members and a Golder representative related to a scope change for the Kamiak Gap infiltration feasibility study.

**Water Summit Planning Report** – Robischon reported that the Summit agenda continues to develop with the identification of several speakers/panelists. Steed reported on a meeting in Washington, DC with Michael Bogart (Interior Secretary Counsel) in which a commitment of Interior Department participation was secured.

**Palouse Basin System Dynamics Modeling Project Report** - Kline reported on a March 14 workshop in which participants produced a conceptual model framework. The project researchers (WoW) will populate the model in advance of the next meeting, scheduled for April 11. Kline indicated that the workshop was well received by the participants.

**Hawkins Development** – MacDonald reported on the status of the proposed Moscow sale of services for the Hawkins project. Moscow is preparing an application to IDWR to modify the place of use for their water rights to include the project site. There has been no word from Hawkins regarding whether they intend to purchase waste water treatment services from Moscow.

**Pullman Toilet Rebate Program / WSU Low Flush Urinals** – Robischon displayed an advertisement from the newspaper announcing the initiation of a toilet rebate program in Pullman. Corcoran noted that WSU is evaluating the effectiveness of water-efficient (1/8 gal per flush) urinals.

**North Idaho Adjudication** – Robischon reported that the Moscow Mayor sent a letter to the IDWR Director voicing the City's support of the North Idaho Adjudication.

**Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study** – Robischon displayed a copy of the draft scope of a preliminary feasibility study that was distributed at a joint Moscow City Council – Latah County Board of County Commissioners meeting. MacDonald noted that the study is designed to work progressively from preliminary through more detailed investigations, which will allow for feasibility assessment at several stages of the project.

**Columbia River Basin Water Outlook** – Kimmell reported on information presented at a Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting in March indicating that this season's snowpack conditions are good, runoff forecasts are favorable, and long range (March – May) forecasts point toward near normal temperature and precipitation.

## **7) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

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

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**