



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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April 17, 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	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
X	Moscow: Walter Steed, City Council Member		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, 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

Alyssa Gersdorf, Golder; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Cheryl Morgan, Self; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Mike Holthaus, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

#### 1) Approval of the March 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The March minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations – Visualization Demonstration

Robischon presented a 2-1/2 D visualization of a mockup of the Palouse Basin, including both land surface and basement topology. During the demonstration, Robischon explained that Jim Osiensky and John Oldow plan to propose that IDWR collect the data and build similar visualizations for all of the basins that will be included in the upcoming \$20M Idaho Aquifer Study project.

The proposed project will build spatially registered databases containing well locations, water levels and lithology for a basin. The plan calls for building the first dataset for the Palouse Basin, and Osiensky and Oldow would like to enlist PBAC's support of the project. At next month's May PBAC meeting, the visualization software will be demonstrated in the visualization laboratory on the UI campus.

### **3) Unfinished Business**

**PBAC Goals** - Robischon displayed the 2001 PBAC timeline and illustrated how the components of the timeline are similar to those of an action plan. The group decided to use the 2001 timeline as a starting point for developing the 2010 action plan that is an element of the 2006 PBAC goals. Workman will transfer the information into electronic form and Robischon will review PBAC records to update the status of the items included in the timeline and present the status to the group.

**New PBAC Project(s)** – Robischon presented information on previously proposed and potential future PBAC projects. The group passed motions to: add the tritium testing project to the (end of the) list of PBAC priority WRIA implementation projects for consideration in the FY09-11 biennium; pursue the staffing and funding of the ASR Impacts / Grande Ronde Monitoring project, and; inquire with John Bush as to his willingness to complete additional geologic mapping work.

### **4) New Business – None Scheduled**

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

Robischon reported that Aaren Fiedler is nearing completion of a draft thesis (Grande Ronde Monitoring / Testing), In the Wanapum Monitoring / Testing project, Scallorn reported that pumping of Moscow well #3 has resumed. To capture the aquifer response to this pumping, data loggers in the Wanapum wells are being reset to record at 1 minute intervals.

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

Robischon displayed information related to proposed membership changes on the CAG. The CAG membership has recommended that PBAC approve two changes to its representation: that PBAC approve a move of Jerry Fairley from Petitioning and Other Environmental Groups to the vacant Technical position, and that Jerry's previous (Petitioning Groups) position be filled by Julie Titone. PBAC passed a motion to approve the CAG's recommendations.

### **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 –

**ASR Conference** – During the discussion of PBAC project from item 3) above, Robischon requested that the group approve his attendance at an upcoming May 7-8 ASR conference in Pasco. Workman reported that Kevin Gardes and Les MacDonald also plan to attend. The group passed a motion authorizing Robischon to travel to the conference.

**DOE Synoptic Measurement Logistics** – Robischon displayed a map illustrating the locations of the wells selected for measurement. With the assistance of Nancy Hoobler from the Palouse Conservation District, permission has been granted to access and measure approximately 2 dozen wells throughout the Basin. Guy Gregory (DOE) intends to visit the Basin the last week of April to work out the logistics of a measurement that will occur sometime in May.

**WRIA 34 Planning Unit Report** – Morgan relayed a status report from Suzanne Hamada indicating that the detailed implementation planning process, to be facilitated through a contract with Golder Associates, has begun. The process will involve a prioritization of the projects contained in the Watershed Plan. Additionally, Morgan reported that test pits have been completed for the Kaimak Butte enhanced infiltration study, with the somewhat surprising result that the quartzite/basalt contact was not found as close to the surface as had been expected.

**Water Summit Planning Report** – Kimmell reported on the planned speakers for the upcoming Summit. Pat Shea (former BLM chief) will speak on the possibilities of a basin-level water management commission, and Robert Johnson (BOR Commissioner) will be the keynote speaker for the morning session. The current plan also includes an evening facilitated panel discussion with local and state level elected officials and regulatory staff.

**Palouse Basin System Dynamics Modeling Project Report** - Workman reported on activities at the April 11 model building meeting, where the group reviewed the model built from input provided at the first session and considered the addition of more detail to the model. Follow up meetings scheduled in May will continue the development of the model.

**Moscow Wisescape Awards** – Robischon displayed a letter from Moscow Mayor Chaney announcing Wisescape awards to be given to Moscow residents who employ water efficient landscaping techniques. The mayor's letter included a generic version of the application form for potential use by the other Basin municipalities

**Pullman Toilet Rebate Program** – Workman reported on the recently implemented rebate program in Pullman. The program involves the provision of a \$100-\$125 rebate to water customers who change out their water wasting toilets for low flow or high efficiency models. In the approximately three weeks since program initiation, 55 applications have been received and 6 changeouts have been completed.

**Chamber of Commerce Presentation** – Kimmell reported that Robischon had presented at a Moscow Chamber of Commerce Business Forum luncheon, and that the presentation appeared to be well received by the audience.

**9) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the May 15, 2008 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**

Potential PBAC Research Projects

- Potential PBAC Research Projects
- ASR Impacts Modeling
  - Tritium Testing
  - Monitoring Well(s)
  - Geologic Maps
  - Framework
  - Water Level Analyses
  - Visualization / Spatial Database
  - Research Synthesis
  - Watershed Plan Projects
  - Other Potential Projects

Potential PBAC Research Projects

• ASR Impacts Modeling

Localized hydraulic models to predict well interference and/or water "mounding"

Pros

- Will be a necessary component of ASR development
- Will compile previously disaggregated information
- Will fill a Grande Ronde monitoring niche
- Relatively Inexpensive (≈ \$50K)

Considerations

- Uncertainty may restrict applicability of models
- Potential lack of consensus within funding entities

Potential PBAC Research Projects

• Tritium Testing

Grande Ronde water level data cleaning and tritium testing of selected wells

Pros

- Will "correct" water level data for barometric effects
- Will provide improved age dates for Grande Ronde
- May provide evidence of recharge/mixing/flow
- Will fill a Grande Ronde monitoring niche

Considerations

- Uncertainty may restrict confidence in conclusions
- May NOT provide evidence of recharge/mixing/flow
- Moderately Expensive (≈ \$75K)

Potential PBAC Research Projects

• Monitoring Well(s)

Design and Construction of one or more monitoring Wells (Cunningham, the "gaps", Whit. Co. Landfill, Bald Butte)

Pros

- Will provide high quality water level information in the central/western portions of the Basin
- Will increase knowledge of hydraulic connectivity within the Basin

Considerations

- Limited spatial extent of applicability
- Moderately Expensive to Expensive (≈ \$100K - \$400K)

Potential PBAC Research Projects

• Geologic Maps

Complete work on Colfax South, Ewartsville Quadrangles, publish maps

Pros

- Will provide additional geologic information of little understood portions of the Basin
- Will improve quality of any future ground water models
- May be able to capitalize upon existing time-sensitive knowledge base

Considerations

- Moderately Expensive (≈ \$50K - \$100K)

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

- Framework

Project to Prepare for Complete Basin Characterization Study

Pros

- Will gather and synthesize information from previous research
- Will generate spatially registered hydrogeologic information
- May identify unknown/important target areas for future research

Considerations

- Expensive (≈ \$250K)
- Already included in WA, ID funding plans

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

- Water Level Analyses

Analyze water level declines for statistical indications of flattening

Pros

- Will provide increased knowledge of rate of Grande Ronde water level declines over time
- May help solidify Basin conceptual models
- May identify unknown/important target areas for future research
- Relatively Inexpensive (≈ \$30K)

Considerations

- Accuracy/uncertainty may limit conclusion confidence

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

- Visualization / Spatial Database

Create spatially registered hydrogeologic database and visualization tools

Pros

- Will gather and manage high quality, spatially registered hydrogeologic information
- Will improve quality of future ground water models
- Will include visualization tools accessible to general public

Considerations

- Already included in scope of Framework project
- Moderately Expensive (≈ \$100K - \$150K)

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

- Research Synthesis

Gather and Synthesize previous research into a State of the Research hydrogeologic report

Pros

- Will gather and synthesize information from previous Basin research
- May be able to capitalize upon existing time-sensitive knowledge base

Considerations

- Moderately Expensive(≈ \$50K - \$75K)
- Already included in scope of Framework project

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

#### Watershed Plan Projects

Project Name	Priority	Start Date	End Date	Lead	Status	Notes
Watershed Assessment	High	2008-01-01	2008-06-30	Steve Robischon	Completed	Final report submitted
Groundwater Monitoring	Medium	2008-03-01	2008-12-31	Suzanne Humada	In Progress	Installation of monitoring wells
Water Quality Sampling	Low	2008-05-01	2008-09-30	Mimi Wainwright	Planned	Waiting for funding approval
Public Outreach	Low	2008-07-01	2008-10-31	Steve Robischon	Planned	Developing materials
Watershed Plan Update	High	2008-09-01	2009-03-31	Steve Robischon	Planned	Reviewing current plan

### Potential PBAC Research Projects

#### Watershed Plan Projects

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**Robischon, Steve**

From: Wainwright, Mimi (ECY) [MIMWAH1@ECY.WA.GOV]  
 Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 12:17 PM  
 To: Robischon, Steve  
 Cc: Suzanne Humada  
 Subject: RE: PBAC April Meeting

Hi Steve - I'm disappointed that I won't be able to make the PBAC meeting (I'm on the west side that day) but I'm hoping you can mention Ecology's 09/11 biennial budget building process. PBAC's confirmation of viable projects (ie Framework and Groundwater Assessment proposals) and estimated budgets would really help out the Planning Unit and Ecology put together our budget proposal. We will be submitting our proposal applications 15 May and I believe Suzanne & I were going to work off of the ranked list submitted for this biennium, would love to have PBAC input. Let me know if you have thoughts or questions. Mimi

Potential PBAC Research Projects

Other Potential Projects

- Wanapum Exploration
- Ground Water Surface Water Interactions
- Conservation Studies
- Demand Management
- Engineering Studies
- Legal Analyses
- Environmental Investigations
- Education/Outreach
- Economic Studies
- Social/Political Considerations

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