



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

University of Idaho PO Box 443011

Moscow, ID 83844-3011

Phone: (208) 885-6429 Fax: (208) 885-6431

[pbac@uidaho.edu](mailto:pbac@uidaho.edu) [www.uidaho.edu/pbac](http://www.uidaho.edu/pbac)

May 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes

### UI McClure Hall, Room 311

#### Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus (Chair), Water Systems Manager		WSU: Mike Leonas, Project Manager, Capital Planning & Dev.
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	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		Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
	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
X	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Alyssa Gersdorf, Golder; John Oldow, UI; Jim Osiensky, UI; Kathleen Warnick; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

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

#### 1) Approval of the April 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The April minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations – Visualization Project Proposal – John Oldow and Jim Osiensky

Osiensky presented an overview of the visualization project objectives and demonstrated free viewer software that the public could use to explore the data. Oldow provided additional project details and emphasized the need to precisely locate well locations. The professors plan to propose to IDWR the development of visualization data and tools for all of the basins in Idaho. With PBAC's support, they will propose that the Palouse Basin

be the target of initial efforts. After the presentation concluded, PBAC discussed the project and whether it should be supported. Robischon was directed to inquire of the professors what specifically they are asking of PBAC. If their desire is a letter of support from PBAC to IDWR, it was suggested that the professors might draft such a letter for consideration by PBAC at a future meeting.

### **3) Unfinished Business**

**PBAC Goals** - Robischon displayed the 2001 PBAC timeline and illustrated activities grouped according to degree of completion. The group discussed the timeline as well as planning horizons and whether water supply solutions would be local or regional in nature. Workman will provide the 2001 timeline in a format that can be easily read and edited, and Robischon will distribute to the group.

**New PBAC Project(s)** – Robischon reported that the tritium project proposed to the WRIA 34 Planning Unit cannot be entirely funded by WA funds. According to Mimi Wainwright of DOE, the WA funds cannot be used for tuition and thesis fees. A motion was passed committing PBAC funds for the tuition/fees portion of the project.

### **4) New Business –**

**FY09 Entity Assessments** – The group passed a motion to maintain FY09 assessments at FY08 levels, and to issue invoices in early July. Latah County representatives were absent, but all other PBAC entities voted in favor.

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

Robischon reported that the loggers in the monitoring wells have been downloaded and updated water level information will be generated this summer.

Robischon displayed a water level graph of Moscow Well 2, which has been out of service for pump repairs. With Moscow 2 out of service, Moscow Well 3 has been pumped more frequently. Moscow 3 is located approximately 150 feet from Moscow 2, but is completed in a different (Wanapum) interval. Data collected from a logger in Moscow 2 will be examined for evidence of hydraulic connection to Moscow 3.

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

Storey reported that the CAG is recommending that PBAC issue letters to pumping entities acknowledging conservation activities that have a positive impact upon water supplies in the Basin. Robischon distributed copies of the recommendation letter for PBAC review. Discussion ensued about whether this would best be the role of PBAC, the CAG, or possibly the pumping entities themselves. Storey will carry the essence of group's discussion back to the CAG for report at their next meeting.

## 7) Budget Report

The budget report was combined with the entity assessment item (number 4 above). Expensed amounts are running under budgets, but this is at least partially due to UI budget office processing delays. The current budget status indicates a projected PBAC reserve balance of approximately \$175K at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2008).

## 8) Other Reports and Announcements –

**DOE Synoptic Measurement Logistics** – Robischon reported that he met with Nancy Hoobler (Palouse CD) and Guy Gregory (DOE), and Hoobler transferred well location and permission information to Gregory. Gregory intends to conduct the measurements by the end of May.

**WRIA 34 Planning Unit Report** – Holthaus reported that the planning unit reviewed the list of projects in the watershed plan, and next month will rate each project (according to benefits and implementation considerations). Group results will be aggregated and projects will be ranked in tiers for further consideration.

**Water Summit Planning Report** – The planning committee has not met since the last PBAC meeting and there was no report on this item

**Palouse Basin System Dynamics Modeling Project Report** – Robischon reported that the modeling group met May 2 and worked to further refine the pilot project model and began discussions about future model development and how best to transfer the information to the public. The group will meet again May 30.

**Moscow Mountain SNOTEL Data** – Robischon displayed a graph of snow water equivalent from the Moscow Mountain site, indicating that much of the snow has melted. Thompson reported that rivers further north in Idaho (St. Joe, CdA) may have flooding concerns, but the streams in our region should handle the upcoming high runoff without danger of flood.

**Hawkins Stateline Project Status** – Steed reported that Whitman County and Moscow have sent a letter to IDWR indicating that they will work together to create a joint powers agreement related to the sale of water to Hawkins by the City of Moscow. In addition, Hawkins has indicated that they are not interested in purchasing waste water treatment services from the city.

## 9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the June 19, 2008 PBAC meeting,**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**

May 1, 2008

To the members of PBAC:

In keeping with its mission to promote awareness of our region's limited water supply and to encourage conservation, the Citizens Advisory Group recommends that PBAC officially acknowledge the conservation efforts of local communities.

For example, we believe letters should be sent from PBAC to the City of Pullman complimenting its recent rebate offer that encourages residents to replace old toilets with efficient models. The City of Moscow should also be praised for its ordinance establishing an irrigation season and/or its contest to promote low-water landscaping. Institutions, organizations and individuals might be similarly recognized for their efforts.

As we all know, simple, subtle and impactful changes in behavior can be politically difficult to make, so it is important to applaud conservation efforts and encourage more of them. In the process, PBAC can raise awareness of its presence and its key directives in water supply and aquifer protection.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Echanove".

Michael Echanove, chair  
Citizens Advisory Group