



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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November 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes

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

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	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
	Moscow: Tom Scallorn, Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman (Chair), Director of Public Works
X	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 (Vice- Chair), 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	X	Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Bob Haynes, IDWR; Kathleen Warnick; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Joseph Foote, CH2M Hill; Guy Gregory, WA Dept of Ecology; Nancy Chaney, City of Moscow; Scotty Cornelius, self; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Mark Workman, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

1) Approval of the October 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The October minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation – “Strategically Designed Pumping to Maximize Induced Ground Water Recharge to the Wanapum Aquifer System in the Moscow, Idaho Area” – Brad Bennett

Bennett presented preliminary information from his research indicating that additional recharge to the Wanapum may be induced by increasing pumping during the high flow periods of the winter and spring.

Brad also presented information from pumping of Moscow wells 2 and 3 indicating that the extent of hydraulic connection between wells (especially to the east and north of the Moscow wells) is larger than has been previously reported.

3) Unfinished Business -

Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project –

Robischon handed out copies of a letter from DOE to WSU/Pullman detailing grant funding of as much as \$1.5 million to extend the scope of the project to include additional mitigation components (riparian plantings, flushing flows, daily flows, wetland enhancement). Funding is contingent upon funding of the full re-use project. Robischon passed out draft copies of a letter of support from PBAC/CAG to Governor Gregoire and a letter to local businesses/associations urging them to voice their support. The group provided feedback related to the content of the letters and directed Robischon to prepare final letters for signature and mailing prior to Thanksgiving.

4) New Business –

Osiensky long-term aquifer test project proposal -

Robischon displayed an email from Jim Osiensky related to a proposed project to conduct a year-long pump test in the area. The test would not dictate entity pumping rates or schedules, but instead keep detailed track of the on and off times for each municipal pump in the area. This may require the commitment of additional resources on the part of the pumping entities to collect and organize the data. The group indicated that they are interested in hearing more about such a project, and directed Robischon to communicate with Osiensky and request a statement of what specifically the project is hoping to achieve, how it relates to PBAC's mission, and how PBAC would use the information toward its accomplishment.

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

The Grande Ronde monitoring/testing project is wrapping up, and Aaren Fiedler is planning to defend his thesis in January. Fiedler is requesting, and the group has tentatively approved scheduling time for a presentation at the January PBAC meeting.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Robischon reported that the CAG has been working on the WSU re-use project support efforts, and that Mike McVay has been selected to replace Ken Neeley as the ex officio CAG member representing IDWR. Whitman County Commissioner elect Pat O'Neill attended the meeting and expressed his interest in water issues in the region.

7) Budget Report

Robischon displayed budget information through the end of October, indicating a healthy surplus. All entities but UI have paid their FY09 assessments.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

WRIA 34

Corcoran reported on continuing work on the detailed implementation plan (DIP). The DIP will be completed and presented at outreach meetings in Ritzville and Pullman December 2 and 3. The North Fork instream flow group has completed its tentative recommendations for flows, reservations, and allocations for the North Fork of the Palouse River. DOE has indicated that they will not proceed to rulemaking until similar processes have been completed for all streams in the WRIA.

Water Summit Planning Report

Robischon reported that a debriefing meeting was held October 22 in Moscow. The after action review agenda from the meeting was displayed and the group directed Robischon to forward the document to all.

SF Palouse River TMDL

The group did not meet in November and is discussing changing its meeting location to Pullman.

Hawkins Stateline Project Status

Haynes reported that Hawkins plans to pump test either the week of Thanksgiving or the week after. Data loggers at the DOE test well and IDWR4 are set to record at 1 minute intervals in hopes of capturing any responses that may be occurring.

Other

Robischon announced that Helen Harrington will be presenting information on the Idaho Comprehensive Aquifer Planning Project at a December 2 seminar.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18 in Pullman.
(note: December 18 meeting cancelled due to inclement weather)

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the January 15, 2009 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

October 27, 2008

Mike Leonas
Capital Planning and Development
Washington State University
P.O. Box 643611
Pullman, WA 99164-3611

Kevin Gardes, P.E.
Deputy Public Works Director
City of Pullman
325 SE Paradise Street
Pullman, WA 99163

RE: Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reuse Grant Funding

Dear Sirs:

I have reviewed your Waste Water Reuse Grant Application and the Wastewater Reuse Mitigation Plan. Funding for the project is limited to the amount of instream benefits from the project. The Waste Water Reuse Mitigation Plan identified three elements:

1. Riparian Plantings along the South Fork Palouse River near the waste water treatment plant.
2. Flushing flows at golf course at the beginning and end of the irrigation season.
3. Release of a small season long daily flow into the stepped wetlands on the south end of the golf course, which drains into Airport Creek.

The instream value of these mitigation elements is \$1,000,000. At the meeting on October 10, 2008, the following modifications to the mitigation plan were discussed and accepted in principal by the city and the university:



October 27, 2008

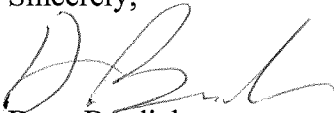
Page 2 of 2

1. Moving the release of the small daily flow to the northern most wetlands area.
2. Re-vegetation of the natural drainage area adjacent to the northern wetlands near the compost area.

These additional mitigation elements would increase the instream benefits by \$250,000 each bringing the total amount Ecology could provide as a grant for the project to \$1,500,000. If for some reason, mitigation measure No.2 from the October 10, 2008 meeting could not be accomplished, the resulting grant would decrease to \$1,250,000.

Grant funds for the project could be released in two phases. The first phase would be for the Riparian Plantings along the South Fork Palouse River. The remaining funds would be available once the total funding package for the Wastewater Reuse Project has been secured. Funding for the second phase is available until June 30, 2011, while the city and the university work to obtain necessary funding for the Wastewater Reuse construction.

Sincerely,



Dave Burdick

Cc: Paul LaRiviere
Mimi Wainwright

Nov. 20, 2008

Dear (chamber president),

Despite conservation efforts, the Grande Ronde Aquifer—upon which most of the Palouse region's 58,000 residents and businesses depend—has continued to decline. Because water conservation is critically important to the future of our region, we are writing to ask your support Washington State University's request for legislative funding of a water re-use facility. The facility would reduce the consumption of ground water by piping reclaimed water to campus from Pullman's wastewater treatment plant.

The Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee is a multi-jurisdictional, cooperative group with the mission of ensuring a sustainable supply. With the help of our Citizens Advisory Group, we have produced the enclosed question-and-answer sheet that provides basic information about the water re-use project.

The state of Washington, through its university, is a primary consumer of a limited water supply. The state has failed on several previous occasions to approve a facility that would provide reclaimed water to the WSU campus. We hope you will agree with our committee and its Citizens Advisory Group that 2009 is the time to act, and urge state officials to approve the budget request. Community support is critically important.

Among those you may wish to contact are: Gov. Christine Gregoire, PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002 (an e-mail address for the governor can be found online at <http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact>); 9th District legislators Rep. Steve Hailey, Rep. Joe Schmick, and Sen. Mark Schoesler; Rep. Helen Sommers, House Appropriations Committee Chair; and Karen Fraser, Capital Budget chair for the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Contact information for legislators can be found online at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rosters/>

Don't hesitate to contact one of us for further information.

Sincerely,

Mark Workman, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee chair

Michael Echnove, PBAC Citizens Advisory Group chair

Nov. 20, 2008

Gov. Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire,

Despite conservation efforts, the Grande Ronde Aquifer—from which Washington State University draws its water and upon which most of the Palouse region's 58,000 residents depend—has continued to decline. Because water conservation is critically important to the future of the region, we are writing to ask your support WSU's budget request for a water re-use facility. The facility would reduce the consumption of ground water by piping reclaimed water to campus from Pullman's wastewater treatment plant.

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Mark Workman, PBAC chair

Michael Echanove, Citizens Advisory Group chair