



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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October 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference 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
X	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
	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
X	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

Bob Haynes, IDWR; Julie Titone, CAG/ Palouse Water Conservation Network; Cheryl Morgan, Self; Kevin Gardes, City of Pullman; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Mark Workman, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

1) Approval of the September 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The September minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation – Steve Robischon

Robischon reviewed a presentation made by Jim Osiensky at the Palouse Basin Water Summit, and commented upon the validity of several of the assumptions it contained.

3) Unfinished Business -

Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project – PBAC/CAG/Floyd Joint Meeting – Julie Titone

Titone reviewed recent progress on efforts to support the project, and handed out a draft project Q&A for the group's consideration. The group discussed the project and the Q&A and voiced suggestions for modifications. Leonas will provide additional details to Titone regarding the project's planned breakdown of water use on the WSU campus. Titone suggested that the group consider conducting a joint PBAC/CAG meeting in November and inviting WSU president Floyd to attend. The group suggested that the Pullman Chamber of Commerce might be a better venue for such a meeting, as PBAC and the CAG have already voiced their support for the project. Titone will incorporate modifications into the Q&A, provide a summary report of an upcoming meeting with Larry Ganders (WSU Assistant to the President), and work on drafting letters of support for potential use by interested parties.

NF Palouse Instream Flow Update – Kevin Gardes

Gardes provided an update to the group about the status of the process to create an instream flow rule for the North Fork of the Palouse River. Gardes handed out a summary of the group's proposed allocation to be set aside for future water use needs. The group discussed the instream flow proposal, the allocation, and a separate reservation (for exempt domestic wells) that is being discussed as part of the process. Gardes indicated that the process is nearing completion and a final rule proposal is forthcoming.

4) New Business – None

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report – Not Discussed

As the meeting was running late due to extended discussions of earlier agenda items, a PBAC projects progress report did not occur.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report

As the meeting was running late due to extended discussions of earlier agenda items, a Citizens Advisory Group report did not occur.

7) Budget Report

As the meeting was running late due to extended discussions of earlier agenda items, a Budget report did not occur.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

WRIA 34

Robischon reported that a draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) is out for review; comments are due by 10/22. Current plans call for a finalized DIP and public meetings in early December (including one scheduled in Pullman for 12/3, 4:00 – 7:00).

Water Summit Planning Report

Robischon reported that a debriefing meeting is scheduled for October 22 in Moscow.

SF Palouse River TMDL

Leonas reported that the group met in October and continued to review fecal coliform data.

Hawkins Stateline Project Status

Steed reported that Moscow staff has been researching requirements that would enable Moscow to provide water directly to Hawkins as opposed to through a joint powers agreement with Whitman County. This may involve modifications to Idaho code. Progress will be reviewed at the 10/20 Moscow City Council meeting. Inquiries will be made to Hawkins about coordinating pumping tests with PBAC so that additional hydrogeological information might be collected in the state line area.

Other

Scallorn reported that work done at the (new - 1996) Moscow Cemetery well indicates sand infiltration from a level above that of the screen. In response to a question, Scallorn indicated that funding for Moscow Well 10 is included in the 2009 budget, but no specifications have yet been developed. Haynes added that Moscow has applied for a water right transfer (not a new water right) to add Well 10 to its existing suite of water rights as an additional point of diversion.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for November 20 in Moscow

9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the November 20, 2008 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager

DRAFT

Answers to your questions about Washington State University's proposed water re-use facility

Presented by the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee and its Citizens Advisory Group

In order to conserve the Palouse region's underground water supply, Washington State University is requesting \$16 million from the state of Washington to build a water re-use facility. The facility, operated in partnership with the city of Pullman, would irrigate the WSU campus grounds with treated wastewater. The water would be pumped to College Hill from the city's treatment plant on the South Fork of the Palouse River.

Q: If approved by the 2009 Legislature, when would construction on the project begin, and when would it be completed?

A: Start of construction is anticipated in 2010, with completion in 2011.

Q: Which parts of campus would be watered?

A: The golf course would be irrigated using only reclaimed water. As additional distribution infrastructure is installed on the campus, other areas traditionally irrigated with domestic water would be irrigated with reclaimed water.

Q: How much of the campus water needs would be met with wastewater?

A: At full implementation, approximately one-third of yearly total.

Q: How much wastewater will be used for irrigation?

A: Up to 1.05 million gallons per day, mostly from May through September.

Q: Would the diversion of that much wastewater from the South Fork of the Palouse River impact the rights of downstream water users?

A: No, according to a 2003 letter from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Q: Will any city property be irrigated with the wastewater?

A: There are no plans to use WSU reclaimed water on city property.

Q: Who would pay for maintenance of the re-use facility?

A: WSU has always contributed to the cost of operations and maintenance of the treatment plant. A similar arrangement will be entered into regarding the reclaimed water costs.

Q: How would area residents benefit?

A: The facility will help conserve groundwater supplies on which the entire region depends. A potentially indirect benefit of the water re-use facility would be a head-start on wastewater treatment plant improvements that may soon be required by law.

Q: What would the length and location of the wastewater pipeline be?

A: The pipeline is approximately 6 miles long and consists of a combination of 16” and 12” diameter pipe. It will traverse through the north end of Pullman, following Terre View Drive to the northeast quadrant of the campus where a new ground storage facility will be constructed to store reclaimed water. The reclaimed water distribution system will extend into campus from this storage facility.

Q: Hasn't WSU asked for this money in the past?

A: The university made three previous requests for the project, but so far has only received money for preliminary design work that was completed and approved by the Department of Ecology in 2002.

Q: If the project isn't approved in 2009, what are the chances it will be built in the future?

A: Water planners see 2009 as a “window of opportunity” for the project that may close in the future. One reason is the expected imposition of minimum in-stream flows for the South Fork of the Palouse River.

Q: If I want to speak up on support of the project, who should I contact?

Gov. Christine Gregoire must include the facility in her budget. Then it must be approved by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and the Appropriations Committee. *(contact information forthcoming)*

**DRAFT NF PALOUSE INSTREAM FLOW & ALLOCATION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Month	Proposed Flows	Priority/Rational	Proposed Allocation	50% Exceedance	90 % Exceedance
Oct	52 cfs	Aquatic Habitat		20	10 cfs
Nov	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat		56	15 cfs
Dec	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	113	32 cfs
Jan	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	147	42 cfs
Feb	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	333	56 cfs
Mar	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	548	152 cfs
Apr	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	765	219 cfs
May	63 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	357	77 cfs
Jun 15	52 cfs	Aquatic Habitat	33 cfs	120	45 cfs
Jun 30	52 cfs	Aquatic Habitat		68	25 cfs
Jul	39 cfs	10% Exceedance		20	8 cfs
Aug	20 cfs	10% Exceedance		8	3 cfs
Sep	34 cfs	10% Exceedance		9	3 cfs

Month	90 % Exceedance	50 % Exceedance	10 % Exceedance
Oct	8 cfs	15cfs	84 cfs
Oct	12 cfs	24 cfs	76 cfs
Nov	14 cfs	36 cfs	156 cfs
Nov	15 cfs	76 cfs	355 cfs
Dec	29 cfs	83 cfs	321 cfs
Dec	34 cfs	143 cfs	1187 cfs
Jan	50 cfs	128 cfs	815 cfs
Jan	33 cfs	165 cfs	2194 cfs
Feb	51 cfs	361 cfs	2624 cfs
Feb	61 cfs	306 cfs	2279 cfs
Mar	127 cfs	365 cfs	1578 cfs
Mar	177 cfs	731 cfs	2391 cfs
Apr	248 cfs	905 cfs	1767 cfs
Apr	189 cfs	625 cfs	1671 cfs
May	84 cfs	436 cfs	1044 cfs
May	69 cfs	278 cfs	1189 cfs
Jun	45 cfs	120 cfs	277 cfs
Jun	25 cfs	68 cfs	173 cfs
Jul	11 cfs	27 cfs	50 cfs
Jul	5 cfs	14 cfs	28 cfs
Aug	3 cfs	9cfs	20 cfs
Aug	3 cfs	7 cfs	20 cfs
Sep	2 cfs	8 cfs	28 cfs
Sep	4 cfs	10 cfs	40 cfs