



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

University of Idaho PO Box 443301

Moscow, ID 83844-3301

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

pbac@uidaho.edu www.uidaho.edu/pbac

December 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas (Vice-Chair), 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, Director of Public Works
	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 (Chair), County Representative	X	Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
X	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Michael Largent, County Commissioner
X	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator	X	Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Jim Osiensky, UI; Katie Moran, UI; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Dale Ralston, RHS; Attila Fohnagy, UI; Joe Foote, CH2M Hill; Julie Titone, CAG; Mary Rosen, Palouse CD; Rusty Post, WDOE; Andy Jacobson, KQQQ; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Paul Kimmell, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

1) Approval of the November 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Draft November minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentations –

2009 Irrigation Season – Weather and PBAC Pumping

Robischon presented weather and pumping data for the 2009 irrigation season. In aggregate, the 2009 season was warmer and drier than both 2008 and the 5 year trailing (2004-2008) average. September 2009 was especially warm. In response to the drier summer, in aggregate (through October 2009) basin entities have pumped 1.7% more

than during the same period last year. Annual numbers will be available in February 2010.

Basinwide Aquifer Test – Initial Pump Shutdown Period

Robischon displayed a chart created by Moran illustrating the length of pump shutdown for each of the pumping entities, with shutdown periods ranging from 27 to 65 hours. Each entity reported logistical details of their shutdown experience. Moran thanked the group for their cooperation and participation in the shutdown. She is currently downloading data from water level and motor on/off loggers, and will be conducting preliminary analyses during the next month or so.

Robischon displayed additional preliminary information on (water level) responses in Moscow to initiation of pumping in Pullman that appear to indicate hydraulic connection. The data will be subjected to more thorough analyses by Moran once a complete dataset is acquired.

3) Unfinished Business

PBAC Financial Management – IWRRRI/UI Facilities

Kimmell reported no further action has yet been taken by John Tracy at UI/IWRRRI to shift PBAC financial management from IWRRRI to Facilities.

4) New Business –

Framework Project – WDOE Funding Uncertainty, Services Contract Changes

Robischon presented correspondence detailing WDOE funding cuts to the Framework project - \$10K in FY10 and \$40K (all funding) in FY11. He identified subtasks (compilation of well information, analyses of proxy data) that could be eliminated from the project and minimize adverse impact to the remaining project deliverables. In addition he noted that Task 4 could be moved forward in the project to complete in FY10 and provide a “clean” stopping point for the WDOE project, while leaving Task 5 to PBAC to complete in FY11.

The group discussed the funding cuts and the merits of modifying the WDOE/PCD grant and/or the PCD/Terragraphics services contract. A motion was passed to modify the grant to reflect the reduced WDOE funding, leave the contract scope as is, and commit PBAC to funding (up to \$50K) the completion of the project as originally scoped.

Tritium Testing Project – Scope Change

Workman noted the project scope as reported at last month’s PBAC meeting appears to have changed from what PBAC originally approved and posed the question to the group of whether a scope change request needs to be submitted. Osiensky explained that the scope had not changed substantially, and the group questioned Osiensky about the project and what it will accomplish. Workman indicated he will review the proposal originally approved by PBAC and respond to Osiensky via email with further questions.

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Basinwide Aquifer Test

Progress reported in earlier agenda item (initial shutdown period).

Framework Project

Nimmer reported progress on the project, including scanning of all documents in the PBAC library, identification of additional documents in the UI library, and downloading of well logs from the IDWR database. Nimmer and Ralston would like to begin the data gap analysis (Task 4) now and proceed in an incremental fashion to help focus their efforts. They will meet with the Framework scoping/selection/steering committee sometime in mid January to begin data gap discussions.

Tritium Testing Project

Progress reported in earlier agenda item (scope change).

WoW System Dynamics Modeling Project

Robischon reported a link to the latest version of the model has been provided to the participatory group involved in the last (November 6) modeling workshop. The group was asked to test the model and provide comments to Allyson Beall. A link to an updated version of the model will then be sent to the larger group involved in the modeling workshop process for further testing.

Proposed 2010 Visualization Project

At the end of the meeting, Osiensky briefly displayed a demo version of the software he plans to utilize in the proposed visualization project (presented at the November PBAC meeting). Further consideration of the proposed project has been tentatively scheduled on the January 2010 agenda.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Titone reported Michael Echanove has stepped down as CAG chair, and the group has nominated Titone as new chair, and Mark Loaiza as vice-chair. Titone will task the CAG members with the creation of bylaws that include consideration of the CAG structure and membership requirements (including place of residence and group representation).

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported FY 2010 payments have been received from all but Latah County, and reported no budget anomalies.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project

Workman reported the project team is awaiting further word about the status of WDOE funding in light of recent statewide economic issues.

Moscow Comprehensive Water System Plan

Les MacDonald reported the project continues, with current tasks including 50 year population projections and the construction of a hydraulic model of the system.

Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study Project

Les MacDonald reported contracts are in place and work has begun on the project.

SF Palouse River TMDL

Post reported information from Elaine Snoweart that the bacteria TMDL was submitted to the EPA in late October. Work continues on temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH analyses.

Other

Robischon displayed mountain snow water equivalent maps (for December 14, 2009 and December 15, 2008) illustrating below-normal snowpack in all Idaho basins. The current snowpack is similar to, but slightly lower than, last year at this time.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010 in Moscow.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the January 21, 2010 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager