



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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August 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

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### Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

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#### 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
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 (Chair), County Representative		Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
	Latah County: Tom Stroschein, County Commissioner		Whitman County: Michael Largent, County Commissioner
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Bob Haynes, IDWR; Guy Gregory, WDOE; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Max Birdsell, Golder Associates; Joe Foote, CH2M Hill; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

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

#### 1) Approval of the July 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Draft July minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations – None Scheduled

#### 3) Unfinished Business -

No unfinished business was discussed

#### **4) New Business –**

##### **Framework Project – Selection Subcommittee**

Five PBAC members (Kimmell, Leonas, Workman, Scallorn, Corcoran) volunteered to serve on the selection subcommittee. Gregory indicated he would attempt to secure WDOE participation. Gregory also noted that although funding is in place for this fiscal year, there are no guarantees about the availability of any funding which may remain in the second year of the biennium. The committee passed a motion enabling the subcommittee to make a selection recommendation to the Palouse Conservation District without full PBAC approval so contract negotiations can begin as soon as possible. Project proposals are due August 28, at which point copies will be distributed to selection subcommittee members for evaluation.

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

Robischon displayed copies of a 2009 letter from PBAC to IWRRI requesting continuation of the \$3,500 annual fee in lieu of project indirect charges agreement, and a 1994 letter documenting the original agreement. The two new projects scheduled to begin this month have been submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs at UI for processing, assuming the agreement will be continued. Robischon noted that Director Tracy of IWRRI has indicated he would like to discuss transferring financial administration of PBAC projects from IWRRI to UI Facilities.

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

Robischon reported that the CAG did not meet in August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10.

#### **7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed the latest update to the budget. Invoices were sent to the entities July 28. Payments have been received from the cities of Palouse and Colfax.

#### **8) Other Reports and Announcements –**

##### **PBAC/WoW Water Resource Visioning Tool (modeling) Project Workshop**

PBAC attendees (Steed, Workman, Corcoran, Scallorn) at the August 14 workshop reported topics discussed included the new dual storativity model, scenarios to be built, and per capita water use (related to the per capita discussion - Kimmel distributed copies of a memo from Moscow Community Development director Belknap to Mayor Chaney). The next workshop is scheduled for September 10 (Jack's Creek, 11:00 – 1:00).

##### **Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project**

Workman reported contracting activities with JUB Engineers are proceeding. Project tasks include updating a pre-design plan to enable eligibility for potential future federal stimulus or WA State funding and habitat restoration on the stream banks of the South Fork of the Palouse River north of Pullman.

**Moscow Comprehensive Water System Plan**

Scallorn reported a contract with HDR has been signed. The estimated project term is approximately one year.

**Moscow Surface Water Storage Feasibility Project**

Scallorn reported Terragraphics has been chosen to conduct the study, and the parties are currently working to define the contract scope.

**Water Summit Planning**

Kimmell reported the afternoon agenda is firming up. Donations to date are somewhat sluggish.

**Other**

Robischon displayed an email indicating Mimi Wainwright has left WDOE, and Rusty Post will be assuming her watershed planning duties. In the interim, Gregory indicated he will handle the administration of the Framework project grant. Gregory also noted that budget issues in Washington have forced WDOE to cut back on resources.

Workman reported bids have been opened on a project to construct the wellhouse for Pullman Well #8. The apparent low bid was \$1.183 million dollars.

Waldrop asked about recharge to the Wanapum associated with increased pumping. Robischon displayed a graph indicating Wanapum water levels have declined with increased pumping, and noted no conclusions have yet been drawn from the data about the effectiveness of increased pumping during high flow periods.

Leonas reported a draft fecal coliform TMDL document for the South Fork of the Palouse River is available on the WDOE web site, and a public meeting will be held August 27.

**9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 in Moscow.

**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the September 17, 2009 PBAC meeting,**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**

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City of Moscow  
Community Development

# Memo

**To:** Mayor Nancy Chaney & Moscow City Council  
**From:** Bill Belknap, Community Development Director  
**Date:** July 28, 2009  
**Re:** City Water Department Report of April 22, 2008

At the request of the Planning & Zoning Commission, Nichole Baker, Water Conservation Specialist for the City, prepared the attached report presenting preliminary information pertaining to water use as it varies by broad usage categories and relating that information to the more generally known City water production data.

The report shows that, for the last 3 years, conservation efforts have been paying off in a 5-year rolling average water production below the City's 1% growth rate target and also below the 875 million gallon annual pumping cap. Both of these goals were adopted by the City as part of the 1992 PBAC agreement. The data in the report are in agreement with the recent PBAC annual report, also.

The report is novel because it breaks out the water use for various residential types and commercial zones, as determined by utility billings and numbers of meters in use. Further data acquisition and interpretation has been requested; specifically the integration of GIS data relative to lot size and zoning classification and metered water use. These data can be helpful to planners in better estimating the impacts of proposed land uses, and as part of the City's public information campaign to encourage conservation.

This report is important, because, over the duration of the new Comprehensive Plan, Moscow's population is projected to grow from 22,352 (in 2006) to 30,705 (in 2030), a 37% increase. To meet that goal and remain within the City's PBAC commitment, City residents and businesses need to continue to make efforts to be conservative in their water use.

This reduction in per capita usage seems feasible. The report contains a chart comparing per capita water use in several cities worldwide. Moscow's per capita consumption has been declining slowly to 114 gallons/person/day in 2007, but is above that of Tampa, FL; Victoria B.C.; Seattle, WA; and Boston, MA.

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From the data, it would appear that the strategies the City is employing (public awareness, conservation information and technologies and graduated water rates) are demonstrating some success in managing water use, while still permitting growth. This information indicates that, with continued attention to conservation measures, growth can continue while remaining within the City's water commitments.

After due consideration of this preliminary report, it would be helpful to the Planning and Zoning Commissioners to receive guidance regarding water issues from the City Council to assist the Commission in its land use planning and zoning duties. This policy guidance could range from what are appropriate considerations to be applied in land use deliberations, to preferred strategies for incorporating water conservation into City planning.

Memo

To: Mayor James E. Johnson & Members City Council  
From: Bill DeFuria, Community Development Director  
Date: July 22, 2008  
Re: City Water Department Report of April 22, 2008

At the request of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the City Water Department has prepared this report for the City Council. The report provides information regarding water use in the City, including the amount of water used, the amount of water conserved, and the amount of water conserved through the use of water conservation devices.

The report shows that for the last 7 years, water use in the City has been increasing at a steady rate. The amount of water used in the City has increased from 175 million gallons in 2001 to 215 million gallons in 2007. This increase in water use is primarily due to the growth in the City's population and the amount of water used in the City's commercial and industrial sectors.

The report also shows that the City has been successful in conserving water. The amount of water conserved through the use of water conservation devices has increased from 10 million gallons in 2001 to 25 million gallons in 2007. This increase in water conservation is primarily due to the City's public awareness campaign and the use of water conservation devices in homes and businesses.

The report also shows that the City's water use is increasing faster than the amount of water conserved. This is primarily due to the growth in the City's population and the amount of water used in the City's commercial and industrial sectors. The City's water use is projected to increase from 215 million gallons in 2007 to 255 million gallons in 2012.

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