



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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May 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes

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

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#### Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus, 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 (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		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: Michael Largent, County Commissioner
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Bob Haynes, IDWR; Mimi Wainwright, WA Ecology; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Mark Workman, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

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

Draft April minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations – None Scheduled

### **3) Unfinished Business -**

#### **Response to CAG Recommendation to Fund Public Information Campaign –**

Robischon distributed a copy of a letter sent from Workman to CAG chair Echanove thanking the CAG for their recommendation, explaining that PBAC does not have a funding stream for non-research projects such as the one recommended, and encouraging member entities to work together to convey a regionally consistent conservation message.

#### **Potential PBAC Research Projects –**

Robischon reported the email polling of research voting members not present at the April meeting was complete, with all research members indicating support for the tritium testing project. The project has now been officially authorized by the group.

Wainwright reported the Washington Department of Ecology will contribute \$200 K toward the Framework project during the FY09-FY11 biennium. The group discussed how best to administer the project. Robischon will look into whether PBAC funds can be passed to another administrating organization through the use of a UI services agreement. A motion was passed to earmark \$50 K of the PBAC research budget for the project. Robischon was directed to provide PBAC members with copies of the RFP and the Framework project proposal originally developed by professor Fairley.

### **4) New Business –**

**FY10 PBAC Assessments –** Entity representatives reported the status of budget requests related to PBAC. A motion was passed to generate invoices in amounts equal to last year's assessments and send them to member entities on July 1.

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

Robischon reminded the group of the upcoming (June 5) workshop for the PBAC/WoW systems dynamics participatory modeling project. Robischon also reported progress on a project to establish an additional monitoring point at a WSU Agricultural Experiment Station well on Airport Road.

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

Robischon reported the May CAG meeting was cancelled. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for June 11.

## **7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed the latest update to the budget.

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

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

Robischon displayed a newspaper article reporting the project was not included in the final Washington FY09-FY11 budget. Workman reported work will continue on an update to the 30% design document. Three firms are on the short list to conduct the work; interviews/Q&A's are scheduled for June 2.

### **Water Summit Planning**

Kimmell reported the May meeting was postponed to May 27. The theme for the Summit will be "Complexities on the Surface", with an emphasis on surface water. The Summit will be held October 6 at the SEL Event Center in Pullman.

### **Other**

MacDonald reported Moscow received 6 responses to the RFQ for the surface water storage feasibility project. A short list will be generated and interviews conducted, and the selected consultant may begin work by the latter part of July.

Steed reported IDWR Director Tuthill is a supporter of surface water storage projects.

Haynes reported Tuthill indicated Governor Otter is committed to finding funds to replace the \$12M that was pulled back from the CAMP project. This may not happen next year, or the year after that, but at some point the State of Idaho will be able to contribute funds toward projects like the Framework. Haynes also reported the adjudication process in northern Idaho has slowed, but continues. Initiation in the Palouse will likely be set back a couple years.

## **9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18 in Pullman. *(Note: The June PBAC meeting was cancelled)*

## **10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the July 16, 2009 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**



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May 8, 2009

Michael Echanove  
Chairman, PBAC Citizens Advisory Group  
PO Box 241  
Palouse, WA 99161

Dear Mr. Echanove:

At the April 16, 2009 PBAC meeting, the Committee considered your recommendation regarding the allocation of PBAC research funding to develop a regional conservation campaign. PBAC agrees that a regionally inclusive campaign is a good idea, and it encourages its member entities to participate fully in integrating efforts to ensure a consistent conservation message is communicated to all water users in the Palouse Basin.

As you are aware, the primary role of the Committee is to encourage member entities to implement the Ground Water Management Plan. According to the Plan, one of the key functions of the Committee is to

. . . ***provide a forum*** for the exchange of successful and effective management policies, strategies, and techniques among the entities and other interested groups and governing bodies.

In addition, according to the 2006 PBAC Mission and Goal statement, a primary goal of PBAC is to

. . . ***encourage and facilitate entities*** in meeting their specific pumping, conservation, efficient use, water recycling and other goals.

PBAC does not have a funding stream dedicated to end-user information campaigns such as you are recommending. And it is not PBAC's practice to use funds specifically dedicated to research to fund non-research activities. But in keeping to the dictates of the Ground Water Management Plan and PBAC goals, we can and do encourage the entities' efforts to develop such a campaign.

PBAC recognizes the importance of a regionally inclusive conservation message, and we support all efforts by its member entities to ensure that all Palouse residents are aware of the importance of conserving our scarce water resources.

On behalf of PBAC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CAG for your efforts these past several years. Your contributions have been invaluable and are appreciated. We look forward to continuing to build a strong relationship with the CAG that will ensure that the concerns of all basin residents are included in the dialogue of how best to manage our shared water resource.

Sincerely,

Mark Workman, Chairman  
Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

MW:sr