



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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November 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes

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

#### Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager		WSU: Mike Leonas (Vice-Chair), 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, 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 (Chair), County Representative		Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
	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; Lauren Carey, UI; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics;  
Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Dan Boone, CAG – Port of Whitman County;  
Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Paul Kimmell, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

#### 1) Approval of the October 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Draft October minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentations - None

#### 3) Unfinished Business

##### Framework Project – Project Scope, Services Contract

Robischon reported the contracting process is nearly complete. Terragraphics is signing the contract today (11/19), the Palouse Conservation District will sign soon, and

Terragraphics started work on the project this past Monday (11/16). The contract includes a provision in which PBAC is responsible for scheduling a project initiation meeting. Robischon requested a show of hands from those who wished to participate in the meeting. Interested participants included Corcoran, Steed, Workman, Les MacDonald and Kimmell. Robischon will schedule a meeting for sometime soon after Thanksgiving week. MacDonald asked for clarification about several items in the scope of services and various members of the group provided further explanation of the details.

#### **PBAC Annual Report Press Release**

Robischon reported a press release related to 2008 water use was issued October 24.

#### **Data Logger Inventory/Status**

Robischon reported on status of the data loggers (31 loggers in place and functioning, 18 no longer functioning, 1 newer spare, 1 old spare). Some of the newer loggers exhibit higher failure rates than the older ones, so a systematic replacement schedule based upon logger age does not appear optimal. The group passed a motion authorizing purchase of up to four additional loggers per year, when needed.

#### **4) New Business – None**

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

##### **Basinwide Aquifer Test**

Moran summarized progress on test preparations and reminded the group of the testing protocol to be followed. All pumpers will shut down their pumps by 10:00 PM Monday, November 23. Moran will coordinate “pump on” notifications and decisions. Osiensky added the researchers may wish to conduct a second coordinated shutdown of pumps near the Christmas holiday.

##### **Tritium Testing Project**

Carey explained she is actively investigating wells for potential sampling. Osiensky added that the project is evolving from emphasizing basinwide tritium analyses of primarily Grande Ronde wells to more localized 18O analyses of Wanapum wells.

##### **WoW System Dynamics Modeling Project**

Robischon announced the latest workshop was held November 6. The current plan is to expose the model to user testing beginning sometime in December. A technical meeting (Gregory, Fiedler, Keller, Robischon) was held at WSU to discuss a dual storativity approach to the model, and the conclusion was that such an approach is conceptually consistent with long term basin water level behavior.

##### **Proposed 2010 Visualization Project**

Osiensky described his proposed visualization project and fielded questions/comments from the group. An issue with the project timing involves whether to consider funding the project now in order to recruit a suitable graduate student, or to wait until the Framework project identifies priority gaps that need to be filled. Robischon noted that USGS representatives have been invited to the January meeting, and they have match

money available should gap related needs match up with USGS capabilities. PBAC research project funding considerations will be addressed again at the January PBAC meeting.

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

Robischon reported the CAG did not meet this month due to chairman illness.

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

Robischon reported FY 2010 payments have been received from all but Latah County, and displayed a listing of current PBAC project commitments.

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

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

Workman reported the WDOE grant and consultant agreements (to update the design plan, conduct mitigation, and continue efforts to secure funding facility construction) will be going before the Pullman City Council for approval in January.

##### **Moscow Comprehensive Water System Plan**

Les MacDonald reported the consultant is nearing the end of the data gathering stage, the modeling tool has been selected, and the first chapter of the report (existing system conditions) has been received for review.

##### **Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study Project**

Les MacDonald reported the city has approved the project contract, they are in the process of getting the contract signed, and work should be kicking off in the next week or two.

##### **IWRRI/PBAC Meeting re: Financial Administration**

Kline reported a summary of the meeting. IWRRI Director Tracy feels his organization is not the best place for PBAC financial administration, and proposed transferring those tasks to the UI Facilities organization. Tracy indicated he will pursue a proposal to UI upper administration to accomplish a transfer by next June. The topic will be added as an Unfinished Business item at future meetings.

##### **Other**

Robischon displayed a newspaper item describing layoffs at IDWR associated with budget holdbacks, and noted the cuts would have been larger if it weren't for the contribution of \$500,000 from the Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB). Robischon added that Helen Harrington indicated the IWRB money is being pulled from funds dedicated to the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning and Management Program (CAMP), and that the CAMP budget at one point included money to conduct an aquifer study of the Palouse Basin region.

Robischon reported the WDOE has developed a rainwater collection web site (as state policy rainwater harvesting is now allowed in Washington), and he will add a link to the PBAC site.

**9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17 in Pullman.

**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 PM.

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

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**



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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Palouse Water Use Declines in 2008**

Moscow, Idaho

October 23, 2009

Pumping figures for 2008 released by the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC)

indicate water use on the Palouse declined 5.2% from the previous year.

PBAC recently released its 2008 Annual Water Use Report, showing total pumping by the major pumping entities declined 5.2% from 2007. The 2008 aggregated total pumping for major pumping entities (Pullman, Moscow, Colfax, Palouse, WSU and UI) was 2.63 billion gallons. This figure represents a 5.2 % reduction from 2007, and a 14.9% reduction from 1992, the year the pumpers first enacted a regional Ground Water Management Plan. Committee Chair Paul Kimmell attributes the reduction to “a combination of municipal efficiencies, water rate structures that encourage conservation, cooler and wetter summer weather and a continued awareness by the public of our water

resources”. “We are pleased with the pumping numbers for 2008 and are continuing to enhance our knowledge and management of our ground water basin,” Kimmell noted.

The Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee is a voluntary, cooperative, multijurisdictional group with representatives from the cities, counties, and universities within the Palouse ground water basin. Detailed 2008 pumping figures can be found in the annual water use report, available at the PBAC web site

([http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/Annual\\_Report/Final\\_PBAC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/Annual_Report/Final_PBAC_Annual_Report_2008.pdf)) .

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