



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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September 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes

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

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas (Vice-Chair), Project Manager, Capital Planning & Dev.
X	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering		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	X	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		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Jerry Fairley, UI/CAG/EPur; Jim Osiensky, UI; Katie Moran, UI; Lauren Carey, UI; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Paul Kimmell, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. The group introduced themselves and their representation.

1) Approval of the August 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Draft August minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Introductions – New PBAC Project Student Researchers

Osiensky introduced Katie Moran and Lauren Carey and briefly summarized the scope of the new projects (basinwide aquifer test and tritium testing). Moran handed out a sheet describing the aquifer test and asked for cooperation in coordinating a basinwide municipal pump shutdown during Thanksgiving week. Robischon will distribute the

handout electronically to PBAC members, who can forward it to their appropriate personnel so they can provide feedback to help coordinate the process.

3) Unfinished Business – Framework Project Selection Process

Robischon summarized the progress to date. Five firms (Terragraphics, Golder, Landau, NW Land and Water, and EPur) submitted proposals. The selection subcommittee evaluated the proposals (Robischon displayed evaluation criteria) and met to discuss their results. All proposals were good, and four of the five cost estimates were within the project budget. Two firms have been invited to interviews that will be conducted September 25. Based upon the interviews, the subcommittee will either recommend a firm for selection or select additional firm(s) for interviews.

4) New Business –

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Robischon announced the next WoW model workshop will be held in Pullman September 25, from 11:00 to 1:00. Osiensky provided additional detail about how the tritium project's sample collection will be conducted.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Fairley summarized the CAG meeting of September 10, where no quorum was present. Echanove would like to step down as chair, and Fairley will be on sabbatical for 6 months. The CAG would like it if PBAC members could rotate through attending CAG meetings, and they are also interested in conducting an annual joint meeting with PBAC, especially if it could be scheduled so CAG members can attend (after work). Robischon added that the CAG discussed possibly altering their structure to one involving co-chairs or chair/vice-chair, which will require modifying CAG bylaws. Kimmell indicated the group should consider the joint meeting idea via an online discussion.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported payment was received from Whitman County (in addition to Colfax and Palouse the previous month). Latah County has approved PBAC funding in its budget, but will not disburse funds until January of next year (after tax receipts come in). UI's research funding has been secured, but there has been no word yet on their administrative funding. Moscow should be sending their payments next month.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

2008 Annual Report Status – Robischon displayed a graphic of the annual report cover. The report is ready to go to the printer, and barring a request from the group, Robischon will submit it early next week in hopes of having it ready to distribute at the Water Summit.

Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project, ASR Feasibility Study, Water and Sewer Rates

Workman reported contracting activities with JUB Engineers are proceeding, and they are in the process of selecting a consultant for 1500 feet of streambank enhancement work that will be done as part of the project. In response to a question, Workman indicated ASR feasibility work is on hold pending results of an ASR project in Kennewick. Workman announced the Pullman City Council approved annual rate increases of 12.5% for sewer and 7% for water.

Moscow Comprehensive Water System Plan

MacDonald reported the Moscow comprehensive water and sewer system plans are underway. HDR is the consultant for the water plan.

Moscow Surface Water Storage Feasibility Project

MacDonald reported the city is working with the selected contractor (Terragraphics) to define the scope/budget, and plans call for the contract to go to the city council soon.

Water Summit Planning

Kimmell reported total funding pledges should be adequate to cover budgeted costs, but the committee is having some difficulty firming up speaker scheduling for the morning session. The agenda should be finalized next week. The group provided marketing suggestions to get the word out to more potential attendees.

Other

Robischon displayed an email from Scott Cornelius regarding the need to provide long term storage for cuttings from area wells. The group discussed what might be involved in storing cuttings and cores. Fairley added he has the cores from the Latah County Hydrogeologic Characterization project that could also be added to such storage.

Robischon displayed an email from the UI CTI (Center for Teaching Innovation – the host of the PBAC web site) regarding the need to reduce the storage space used by the site. The group discussed potentially needing a long term plan for archiving and providing access to the PBAC data. Robischon was directed to include this item on next month's agenda.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15 in Pullman.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the October 15, 2009 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager

Long-Term Grande Ronde Aquifer Stress Test

Pumping Test Outline

Sept 17, 2009

As part of a PBAC supported research project, a large-scale, basin-wide, aquifer pump test will be conducted in order to gather information on the hydrogeologic characteristics and hydraulic continuity of the Grande Ronde aquifer system, and estimate the effective size of the groundwater basin. This test tentatively will begin during the week of **November 20-27, 2009**, and continue for approximately one year.

In order for this test to be successful, we'll need the cooperation of the major pumping entities within the basin, namely Moscow, Pullman, Colfax, U of I, WSU and Palouse. Specifically, this test will require:

Data: Each of these entities already supplies records on pumping rates and amounts as well as available water level measurements in pumping wells. Pressure and water level data are also recorded by PBAC baro-loggers and levelloggers in place in many of the area wells. In addition, we will install small self-contained motor on/off sensor units on the well pump housing or wiring of each major pumping well in the basin.

Start-up cooperation: The pump test design requires that groundwater pumping in the basin be shut-off for as long as possible prior to the start of the test, beginning at a **coordinated off time**. Pumps should remain off for as long as possible to let water levels rebound in the absence of groundwater withdrawal. The definitiveness of the test results will be directly proportional to the length of time pumps can remain off prior to the test. Municipalities should plan ahead to ensure that they have full storage tanks before the start of the test. It is extremely important that all pumps be stopped at the same time throughout the basin and remain off as long as possible. After the initial shut-off period, all pumping should resume normal operations .

Further details of the timing and execution of the pump test will be available at least one month in advance (mid-October). We will be arranging site visits for the next two weeks to test motor sensors units. In the meantime, please give us feedback!

9/17/09 Questionnaire- Long-term Grande Ronde Aquifer Stress Test

Name:

Organization:

During the week following Friday, Nov. 20, which day would be the best date to begin the pump shut-off period based on personnel availability and historic water usage? (remember that the following Thursday is Thanksgiving)

Do you have any suggestions for improving data collection (pumping amounts and times, and water level measurements) at your site?

Additional comments:

Please direct any questions to Katie Moran at mora2949@vandals.uidaho.edu. More information on the pump test will be available at the next PBAC meeting.