



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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DRAFT February 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

X	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
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

Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Dale Ralston, RHS; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Allyson Beall, WoW; Mary Rosen, Palouse CD; Fritz Fiedler, WoW; Jan Boll, WoW; Doyle McClure; Joe Foote, CH2M Hill; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Paul Kimmell, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

1) Approval of the January 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Draft January minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentations/Discussion –

2009 PBAC Pumping – Steve Robischon

Robischon presented 2009 pumping data. Combined (Pullman, Moscow, WSU, UI, Colfax, Palouse) total pumping for 2009 was 2.68 billion gallons, up approximately 2% from 2008. The increase over 2008 appears to be primarily a result of warmer, drier summer weather, especially in June and September. On a positive note, WSU's pumpage in May (26.4 million gallons) was the lowest amount dating back to at least 1957. (*Note:*

*Presentation slides have been posted to the PBAC web site at
http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/pbac/Presentations/2010/2009_PBAC_Pumping.pdf*

Systems Dynamics Water Visioning Model – Allyson Beall

Beall presented the model and walked the audience through the model interface and its options. The group asked questions about model content and provided feedback for consideration in the next iteration. The model will be presented at the upcoming Palouse Basin (Water) Leadership Roundtable.

3) Unfinished Business

Proposed 2010 Visualization Project

The group discussed the project, and a decision was made to postpone consideration of its funding, pending receipt of the conclusions/recommendations that will be developed by the Framework project. At that point the group will have a prioritized list of potential projects for consideration, and will be better able to make funding decisions based upon where the project falls on such a list. Several in the group voiced their appreciation of the efforts Jim Osiensky made in formulating this as well as other project proposals over the years, and directed Robischon to communicate PBAC's appreciation.

Framework Project – Grant/Services Contract Changes

Robischon reported the project steering committee met January 26 and decided to keep the PBAC-funded portion of the project (required to make up for WDOE grant funding cuts) separate from the existing Palouse CD – Terragraphics services contract. PBAC will consider whether/how best to accomplish those tasks removed from the original project scope, and move forward next fiscal year. The group directed Robischon to convene a steering committee meeting before next month's PBAC meeting to begin discussing where to go next with the project.

4) New Business – None

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Framework Project

Nimmer reported progress on the project. The amended services contract has been signed by Terragraphics and Palouse CD. Nearly all documents have been identified and scanned. Nimmer will visit Latah County to determine whether they possess documents of interest. Initial document review is nearly complete.

Basinwide Aquifer Test

Robischon displayed an email from Katie Moran reporting her efforts this past month have been focused on how best to remove barometric influences from the data and how to organize the large volume of data the project will collect. A new round of downloading is scheduled to begin next week.

Tritium Testing Project

Robischon displayed an email from Lauren Carey reporting sample collection (for tritium

as well as O-18) has begun (Palouse 3, Moscow 2 and 6). She also hopes to collect samples from the Mountain View Park and Elks wells this spring.

WoW System Dynamics Modeling Project

Earlier in the meeting, Fiedler reported funding for the current phase of the project runs out in April. The WoW group is looking for feedback about where the project should go from here.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report

Robischon displayed an email from Julie Titone reporting the CAG is still working on their bylaws, and the group hopes to present them to PBAC for approval this spring. At the March meeting, Bobbie Ryder from WSU will attend to talk about the proposed arboretum/wildlife center at WSU. Titone's email also noted the group is grateful for Leonas' and Kimmell's attendance at recent CAG meetings.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported the payment from Latah County has been received, and all entities are paid up for the remainder of the fiscal year (through June 30).

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

PBAC-UI Financial Administration

Kimmell reported on recent meetings with John Tracy (Director, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute - IWRRI) in Boise and February 9 in Moscow. Kimmell indicates Tracy didn't think it would be that difficult to transfer administration of funds from the UI Office of Sponsored Programs to UI Facilities. Tracy needs to meet with UI personnel to ensure such a transfer is feasible. The other outstanding issue is whether Robischon will be employed by Facilities or the Research Office/IWRRI. Kimmell will share progress with all as soon as he learns more.

Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study Project

MacDonald reported the project team is reaching the end of early project subtasks: identifying criteria for potential sites, defining purpose and needs, identifying potential funding sources, developing bibliographic materials, and identifying existing water rights. The project is now moving into watershed and hydrologic screening subtasks.

Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project

Workman and Leonas reported the project continues, with a design development kickoff meeting scheduled for February 25.

Palouse Basin (Water) Leadership Roundtable

Kimmell announced the upcoming roundtable, and in response to a question, indicated the intent of the roundtable is to continue progress made at the Water Summit and better inform elected officials about the resource and PBAC's role/efforts.

Other

WSU GeoAnalytical Lab Chip Analysis/Storage Offer

Robischon displayed an email from Rick Conrey at WSU offering GeoAnalytical lab services to analyze well chips from the upcoming Moscow Well 10 project, as well as store well chips from area Grande Ronde wells. Some group members expressed surprise that space is available and that analysis could be done free of charge, so caution was advised.

Snow Water Equivalent Maps

Robischon displayed SWE maps from the current week and the same week last year, indicating snow water equivalent in area basins is less than 60% of normal for this time of year, drier than last year (which was about 80% of normal).

Moscow Well 10 Project

MacDonald reported progress on the project: a water right transfer (to add point of diversion to Well 9 right) has been approved, and an application has been submitted to the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) State Revolving Fund for a construction loan. The group discussed potential drilling technologies and how to ensure collection of drill chips whose analysis can provide quality geologic information to future researchers.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2010 in Moscow.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Submitted for review and approval,

Steve Robischon, Executive Manager