



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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May 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

### Moscow UI Facilities Services Center, Jack's Creek Meeting 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	X	Whitman County: Michael Largent, County Commissioner
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Kathleen Warnick; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; David Hall, Palouse Water Conservation Network; Mandie MacDonald, Landau Associates; Nathan Moxley, WSU Geology Department; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics Environmental Engineering; Dale Ralston, Ralston Hydrologic Services; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Julie Titone, CAG; George Grader, CAG; Scotty Cornelius, Self; Diane Cornelius, Self; Rick Conrey, WSU SEES; John Bush; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Paul Kimmell, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

#### 1) Approval of the April 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Draft April minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentation/Discussion –

##### Well Chip Re-analysis – Rick Conrey

Conrey presented information resulting from a re-analysis of well chips first analyzed in the 1970's. Conrey emphasized the need to gather additional data on the subsurface, and

offered to create a chip repository of Grande Ronde wells within the basin. In response to a question from Barney Waldrop, Conrey indicated possible priority areas for drilling would include locations at the crest of what appears to be a fold west of Pullman, in the gap east of Kamiak Butte, and on the WSU campus where there is evidence of structural deformation between wells #7 and #6.

### **Structural Features of the Columbia River Basalt (CRB) Group – John Bush**

Bush presented introductory information describing terminology used to describe structural features, a summary of his current thinking on the geologic boundaries present in the Palouse basin, a demonstration model illustrating the nature of the structural deformations, and a photographic slide show of some visible structural features further west in the CRB.

## **3) Unfinished Business**

### **Framework Project – Restored WDOE funding/scope**

Robischon reported the \$50K removed from the project last year has been restored, and new grant and contract amendments are being processed. Not all of the scope items originally removed are included in the restored scope. New/replacement scope items have been added to analyze existing data for evidence of ground water / surface water interaction and the presence of boundaries, and to gather current water level data from wells first measured during the development of the ground water models in the 1970's and 80's. The restored schedule calls for project completion in late 2010 - early 2011. Workman noted the steering committee has discussed the potential to supplement the project scope with previously committed PBAC funds if appropriate.

## **4) New Business –**

### **FY11 PBAC Entity Assessments**

Robischon displayed a document submitted to Latah County requesting FY11 funding at the same level as FY10. The group discussed the assessment amounts to request, and a motion was passed to assess at the same levels as last year. Robischon will issue invoices in July.

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

### **Tritium Testing Project**

Robischon displayed analysis results from the first set of wells sampled, indicating the probable presence of tritium in Moscow #2 (a Wanapum well), Pullman #3 (a shallow Grande Ronde well), and two shallow wells in the Moscow area. No tritium was apparent in Palouse Well #3, Moscow #6, WSU #4, or the Cornelius well.

### **Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project**

Robischon displayed an email from Moran reporting completion of another round of downloads.

**Framework Project**

Nimmer reported the project is progressing with synthesis and data gap tasks, and gearing up to locate and measure water levels (see restored scope above).

**WoW System Dynamics Modeling Project**

Robischon displayed an email from Allyson Beall offering to present a final report on the model, and the report will be scheduled for the June meeting.

**6) Citizens Advisory Group Report**

Titone reported the group continues to work on bylaws, and has been struggling with whether the CAG is subject to open meeting laws. After discussion, Titone suggested reference to open meeting requirements will not be included in the CAG bylaws. Once approved, Titone will forward the bylaws to PBAC for their consideration/approval.

Titone also reported the group has discussed where to go / what to do in the future, and they would like more direction from PBAC. Titone indicated the group would like to expand their outreach and public input activities. Workman suggested a joint PBAC/CAG committee might be in order. After discussion, Kimmell volunteered to work with Leonas and MacDonald to work on developing a charge for the CAG. The CAG is on summer hiatus until September.

**7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed a budget report, and the group discussed FY expenditures, project commitments, and fund balances.

**8) Other Reports and Announcements –**

**Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study Project**

MacDonald reported work continues on the project. Watersheds have been delineated, hydrologic capacities defined, and reservoir siting options identified. After review, should one or more of the potential sites appear feasible, the project will proceed to a second phase that will evaluate more specific details.

**Pullman/WSU Wastewater Reclamation Project**

Leonas reported WSU continues to gather data, and Workman noted the habitat restoration portion of the project is making good progress in its initial phase of plan development and permitting.

**Water Summit Planning**

Kimmell reported the current consensus appears to be for a scaled back summit this year, possibly featuring a local update and a featured speaker.

**Other**

Workman reported Pullman's new Well #8 should come on line sometime in the late summer or early fall.

**9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2010 in Pullman.

**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the June 17, 2010 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**