



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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June 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes

### Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

#### Attendance

	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
	Moscow: Tom Scallorn, Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman, Director of Public Works
	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
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Jeslyn Lemke, Whitman County Gazette; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; Dale Ralston, Ralston Hydrologic Services; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Julie Titone, CAG; Joe Foote, CH2M Hill; Katie Moran, UI; Fritz Fiedler, UI/WoW; Allyson Beall, UI/WoW; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

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

#### 1) Approval of the May 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Draft May minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentation/Discussion –

##### **Water Resource Visioning Tool (WoW Model) – Allyson Beall**

Beall presented a wrap-up of the process that was utilized to develop the model, answered questions from the group, and distributed a survey. Waldrop requested and Titone noted for the record that a link to the model can be found at the Palouse Water Conservation Network web site ([www.pwcn.org](http://www.pwcn.org)). Plans include adding additional links

to the Pullman and Moscow city web sites as well as the PBAC site. Robischon will send an electronic copy of the survey to the full committee.

### **3) Unfinished Business –**

Kimmel reported no further update on the efforts to move PBAC financial administration from the UI Research Office to UI Facilities.

### **4) New Business –**

#### **CAG Bylaws**

Robischon distributed a copy of the draft bylaws to the group. Titone presented a summary of the bylaws and requested that PBAC approve their adoption. The group discussed several aspects of the bylaws, and a motion was passed to approve adoption of the draft bylaws with the following two changes: Under I. Mission and objective, second paragraph, add the phrase “With PBAC concurrence”. Under III. Officers, add language to clarify that the chair and vice-chair are voting members. Titone will finalize the bylaws and Robischon will post them to the PBAC web site.

#### **Election of FY 2011 PBAC Officers**

Corcoran moved to nominate Mike Leonas for incoming PBAC chair, and Les MacDonald for vice-chair. MacDonald moved to amend the motion to remove his name from consideration for vice-chair and postpone election of the FY 2011 vice-chair to the July meeting. The group passed the motion to amend and the (amended) original motion. Leonas will serve as PBAC chair for the coming fiscal year, and MacDonald will speak with Tom Scallorn about his potentially serving as vice-chair. The group will consider the vice-chair position at the July PBAC meeting.

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

#### **Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project**

Moran reported she has begun working with computer models that will be used to conduct data analyses. The transducer installed in the Colfax Clay Street well has ceased functioning, and the group reiterated its earlier approval (*note: obtained through a motion passed at the October 2009 PBAC meeting*) of the purchase of a new direct read data logger for the well.

#### **Framework Project**

Ralston reported work is proceeding on the synthesis task as well as on the GW/SW interaction and water level measurement efforts. He also showed the group a sonic water level meter that he hopes can be used to more easily measure water levels in wells cluttered with obstructions (e.g. wires, pipes, etc).

#### **Tritium Testing Project**

Robischon reported Carey has preliminary O18 results from wells sampled earlier this spring indicating the signature of the water in the UI arboretum well is similar to that of Paradise Creek, but the other wells sampled have signatures indicating older water (*note: the May project report indicated the probable presence of tritium (i.e. “younger” water) in Pullman well #3 and Moscow well #2 in addition to the Arboretum well*)

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

Titone reported the group did not meet in June.

## **7) Budget Report**

Robischon reported the budget is in order. With the finalization of (May) minutes documenting the group's decision to keep FY11 assessment amounts the same as in FY10, it will be possible to issue invoices to the entities. Kimmell noted that issuance of invoices will be delayed to enable further discussion of the financial administration of PBAC funds within UI (see above in Unfinished Business).

Kimmell reported he, Leonas and Robischon made a FY11 budget presentation to the Latah County Commissioners on June 16.

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

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

MacDonald reported work continues on the project. The project is approaching a checkpoint where decisions will be made whether to proceed with more detailed investigations of selected potential site(s).

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

Workman reported JUB Engineers has the data and is moving forward on the update of the design development document. The South Fork Palouse habitat restoration portion of the project is working its way through the permitting process.

### **Other**

Waldrop inquired as to the status of last year's WDOE/PBAC efforts to measure water levels in the basin and the associated survey of wellhead elevations. Robischon will contact Guy Gregory to ask about whether he plans to continue with annual measurements, and if so, whether elevation surveys will be required.

Robischon displayed information from a new USGS report documenting water level changes across the Columbia Plateau regional aquifer system over the period between 1984 and 2009. Of the wells measured in Whitman County, those located near the Pullman pumping center declined between 16 and 29 feet during the period. Two wells further west in the county experienced declines of 1 and 2 feet. Ralston noted it may be worth the effort to install a viable logger in the Garfield well at the northern end of the basin.

Robischon reported the Whitman County Commissioners have proposed a zoning amendment that strikes butte protection language from the agricultural district chapter of the code.

Robischon displayed a newspaper article indicating the City of Pullman passed a resolution to reduce greenhouse gasses that includes policies and procedures involving water conservation, water-efficient landscapes and irrigation, and promotion of programs to use recycled water.

**9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2010 in Moscow.

**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the July 15, 2010 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, Executive Manager**

Palouse Basin Participatory Model  
Workshop Survey

1. **The process of building a participatory model is a good method for providing scientific input into decisions about water management.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

2. **The model is an effective way to convey and explore scientific information.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

3. **The process of building a participatory model is a good method for providing social input into decisions about water management.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

4. **The process of building a participatory model provides opportunities for participants to communicate constructively about personal values.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

5. **The process helped to improve my relationships with others involved in water resources on the Palouse.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

6. **I felt that my personal values about water resources in Palouse Basin have been reflected in the model.**

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

7. **Have your perceptions of future water availability in the Palouse basin changed due to this exercise?**

No change		Some change				Major change
0	1	2	3	4	5	

6/17/10

8. Did your participation in the workshops and or attendance at presentations about the process and model increase your knowledge and understanding of the state of water resources in the Palouse Basin?

If yes, would you please describe what have you learned.

9. Does knowing that your colleagues were involved in the modeling process increase your confidence in the model? Please explain.

10. What could be done to improve the experience you have had with participatory modeling? If you were not directly involved in the process is there something that you would have liked to happen to better inform you about the process and model?

11. The model could be used to help facilitate dialog among policy makers.

Strongly disagree			neutral			strongly agree
-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

12. Are you interested in exploring what a facilitated model simulation workshop among policy makers could look like? This could give policy makers an opportunity to explore simulated “what ifs” in a situation that would be non political.

(As recommended for PBAC approval by members of the CAG, June 2010)

## **Bylaws of the Citizens Advisory Group to the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee**

### **I. Mission and objective**

The mission of the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) is to enhance the overall management of the Palouse Basin aquifer system through dialogue among a broad range of interested parties. Its primary objective is to develop recommendations and provide constructive comments for consideration by the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) to effectively implement water management goals.

The CAG may propose and conduct its own projects, including but not limited to gathering public input.

### **II. Membership**

- A. The Citizens Advisory Group will consist of no more than 12 members representing residents of Latah County, Idaho and Whitman County, Washington. Members of the CAG will be appointed by PBAC as positions become vacant. Persons may be nominated by CAG members or may self-nominate for any open seats.
- B. As much as possible CAG membership will achieve a balance of two-state representation and cover a broad range of community interests. Represented groups may include, but are not limited to, rural and other water purveyors, conservation groups, scientists, rural residents, business interests and agriculture interests.
- C. CAG members may recommend to PBAC removal of a member after reaching such a recommendation by no less than a two-thirds vote of total CAG membership, exclusive of the vote of the member recommended to be removed.

### **III. Officers**

- A. The officers of CAG shall be a chair and vice-chair.
- B. The chair shall preside at meetings, and shall assure that the membership is advised on all significant matters of CAG business. The chair may delegate responsibilities such as note-taking.
- C. The vice chair will assume duties of the chair in the chair's absence.
- D. The officers shall be elected by and hold office at the pleasure of the membership.
- E. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms.

#### **IV. Meetings and elections**

- A. CAG shall hold one regular meeting per month on a day approved by majority vote. Meetings may be cancelled when determined appropriate by the chair.
- B. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings and to alert the chair when they are unable to attend.
- C. Officers shall be elected at the December meeting, or whenever a vacancy occurs.
- D. A quorum of the group shall consist of one half of the current membership plus one. (Rounded down to the nearest whole number, in the event that current membership is an odd number.) Each member is entitled to one vote. A majority of affirmative votes lawfully cast by the quorum when the action is taken, is the act of the group except to the extent that these bylaws require a greater percentage of the votes. In the event of a tie vote, the motion shall fail.
- E. Member may designate an alternate to serve in that member's place with voting rights upon approval of the chair.
- F. Any action may be taken without a meeting if the action is taken by a majority of the members of the CAG. The action shall be evidenced by written or verbal consent and included in the minutes of the next CAG meeting. Consent under this section has the effect of a meeting vote.
- G. All meetings shall be open to the public. .

#### **V. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended or repealed by a vote of two-thirds of all voting members subject to approval of PBAC. Whenever an amendment or new bylaws are adopted, it shall be filed with the original bylaws. If any bylaw is repealed, the fact of repeal and the date on which the repeal occurred shall be documented in PBAC files.