



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

University of Idaho PO Box 443301

Moscow, ID 83844-3301

Phone: (208) 885-6429

[pbac@uidaho.edu](mailto:pbac@uidaho.edu) [www.uidaho.edu/pbac](http://www.uidaho.edu/pbac)

September 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes

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

#### Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager		WSU: Mike Leonas (Chair), Director, Capital Planning & Dev.
	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Rob Corcoran, Exec. Director – WSU Facilities Operations
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn (Vice-Chair), 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		Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
	Latah County: Paul Kimmell 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	X	Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

#### Visitors and Others

Yasmin Salter, University of Plymouth, England; Holly Nolan, University of Plymouth, England; Guy Gregory, WA Dept. of Ecology; Jim Osiensky, UI; Attila Fohnagy, UI; Lauren Carey, UI; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Katie Moran, UI; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Tom Scallorn, PBAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

#### 1) Approval of the August 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Draft August minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) Presentation/Discussion – Relative Age Dating of Groundwater in the Palouse Aquifer and Moscow Subbasin Using Tritium and O18 Concentrations – Lauren Carey

Carey presented primer material on age-dating techniques utilizing tritium and O18 concentrations, and updated the group on her results to date. She will continue to collect samples and perform geostatistical analyses to extend her results to unsampled areas throughout the basin in hopes of identifying potential recharge areas.

### **3) Unfinished Business –**

#### **Continuation of Long-Term Grande Ronde Aquifer Stress Testing – Budget Adjustment and Formal Approval**

Robischon distributed a memo from Jim Osiensky explaining a clerical error in the budget table of the original project proposal. The error resulted in an underestimate amounting to \$1,459. The PBAC research funding entities (WSU, UI, Pullman, Moscow) approved a motion to adjust the project budget to a total of \$51,834 (from \$50,375).

### **4) New Business –**

#### **PBAC Computer Purchase**

The group approved a motion to purchase a new computer (cost estimate of model approved by UI ITS is \$935) for Robischon.

#### **IDWR Well Completion Project – Funds Transfer and Closeout**

The contractor performing the development pumping of the wells is unable to fit their pump down the (approx. 3” ID) liners in the 3 shallower wells (IDWR 1, 2, and 3), so the purchase of a suitable pump is required. In addition, the age-dating analyses for the IDWR wells fit well within the scope of the (Osiensky-Carey) tritium testing project. The remaining scope items in the project are no longer required. The group passed motions to: 1) remove remaining items from the scope of the IDWR well completion project, close out the project, and move any remaining projects funds into the research reserve budget, and 2) transfer funds from the research reserve budget to the tritium testing project to cover the actual costs (not to exceed \$6,000 total) associated with the purchase of a suitable pump (including discharge piping and cable); pumping IDWR wells 1, 2, and 3; tritium and C14 testing of IDWR wells 1, 2, 3 and 4; and C14 testing of the Albion well.

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

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

Moran reported she will be conducting a round of downloads the week of September 20. She is planning to conduct a short term pumping shutdown during the Thanksgiving holiday, and will be contacting pumping entities about coordinating their pumping schedules.

#### **Framework Project**

Ralston and Robischon reported the Task 4 draft data gap report has been delivered and distributed to the steering committee. Gregory will post the project documents to the WDOE FTP site and make them available for download.

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

Robischon reported the group discussed their bylaws at a September 9 meeting, and will discuss/consider the issue further at the October 14 CAG meeting.

## **7) Budget Report**

Robischon displayed a budget report and noted FY 11 payments have been received by a majority of the PBAC member entities.

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

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

MacDonald reported he and Scallorn plan to meet to pare down the list of candidate sites to 2 or 3, and a conference call is planned to discuss water rights issues.

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

Workman reported the habitat restoration portion of the project has been delayed awaiting a permit from the Corps of Engineers. The design development update portion of the project is evaluating filtration options with a full day workshop and field trip to Spokane scheduled for the next month.

### **Moscow WWTP Improvements – Phase V**

MacDonald reported a services contract for a pre design project report will be up for approval at the 9/20 Moscow City Council meeting. The project will evaluate a list of 15 or 16 options to alleviate temperature and dissolved oxygen concerns. The objective will be to narrow the set of options to 2 or 3.

### **Palouse Water Summit Speakers Series**

Robischon reported on a September 10 planning meeting. The Speakers Series event will be held October 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 at the University Inn in Moscow. The agenda will feature PBAC and WoW model updates and a keynote address by Steve Moddemeyer related to sustainable water use planning.

### **WDOE Online Forum Accepting Comments on water Resource Management**

Gregory reported on a new WDOE initiative to gather public input regarding water resource management in Washington. A web site has been set up to enable the input.

### **Other**

Gregory reported progress has been made with efforts to classify monitoring wells within the WDOE capital grants projects category, which may provide future opportunities to request funding support for monitoring well construction on the Palouse

MacDonald reported a 6 inch well (117 feet deep, 80 feet to water) was discovered during sidewalk construction in front of the Moscow police station. The well has been equipped with a meter box and cap to enable potential monitoring. Scallorn reported he and Robischon will further evaluate the well during the next weeks.

## **9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2010 in Moscow.

**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

**Submitted for review and approved at the October 21, 2010 PBAC Meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager**

# MEMO

To: PBAC

From: Jim Osiensky

Date: September 14, 2010

RE: Budget Considerations

## **Proposal Budget Correction**

It was brought to my attention on August 31, 2010 by the UI Office of Sponsored Programs that the printed Draft budget as originally accepted by PBAC was in error. This error occurred because I neglected to update the UI graduate student fees and insurance to 2010-2012 rates on the printed budget sheet. The budget justification in the original Draft proposal was correct (see email below), but those amounts were not inserted into the budget page. Therefore a discrepancy of \$1459 was incorporated into the budget sheet. This changes the Total estimated costs of the project from \$50,375 to \$51,834.

## **IDWR Well Sampling**

Sampling of the IDWR wells for C14, tritium and O18 was started on September 7, 2010. Strom Electric from Troy, Idaho was contracted to pump each of the four IDWR wells for well purging (evacuation of stagnant water in the borehole) and sample collection. Approximately 1000 gallons of water were purged from Well IDWR 4 before samples were collected. When we attempted to start purging well IDWR 3, it was realized that wells IDWR 1, 2 and 3 were cased with 3-inch inside diameter PVC liner rather than the 4-inch liner as expected and specified in the drilling contract. This precluded purging and sampling of these wells as planned because Strom does not own a pump to fit this small of a casing.

However, a special order 2.75 inch variable speed pump was located by Strom. The price for this pump is \$765. PBAC would need to purchase this pump for use by Strom to purge the remaining IDWR wells for sampling. PBAC would own the pump at the end; however, no discharge piping or power cable is included in the \$765 price tag. Power cable and discharge piping would be needed as a separate purchase to make the pump useful for future well sampling unless someone like Strom was contracted to use the pump in the future with their cables and pipes.

## **Future C14, Tritium and O18 Sampling**

Wells within the Palouse Basin currently are being sampled for Tritium and O18 as part of the Lauren Carey Tritium project funded by PBAC. However, sampling of selected wells other than just the IDWR wells for C14 would increase hydrogeologic understanding by filling in data gaps. For example, where Tritium gives information about the presence or absence “young” recharge water (<50 years), C14 gives information about the actual age of the water in the range of hundreds to thousands of years. It would be beneficial to collect C14 for *selected* GR and/or Wanapum wells that were not sampled previously because of budget limitations or well unavailability (e.g., access to potential new sampling points such as Pullman 8, Hawkins development wells) that did not exist previously. For example, the Framework Project identified the Albion GR well as a potentially important source of information. It would be beneficial to sample this well for C14 as well as Tritium and O18. In addition, it would be beneficial to sample other wells for C14, Tritium and O18. Other data gaps also exist in our GR/Wanapum C14 samples data base.