



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

University of Idaho PO Box 443301

Moscow, ID 83844-3301

Phone: (208) 885-6429

pbac@uidaho.edu www.uidaho.edu/pbac

DRAFT February 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

X	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas (Chair), Director, Capital Planning & Dev.
	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Steve Potratz, Plant Engineer – 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
	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works		Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
	Latah County: Paul Kimmell 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

Attila Felnagy, UI; Katie Moran, UI; Guy Gregory, WDOE; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; Joe Foote, CH2M Hill; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Mike Leonas, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM

1) Approval of the January 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft January minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation/Discussion – 2010 Pumping and Water Levels

Robischon presented summary information from 2010. Total pumping for the 6 reporting entities (Pullman, Moscow, Colfax, Palouse, WSU, UI) was 2.5 billion gallons. The 2010 total use was 6% less than what was used in 2009, and 18% less than in 1992 (the year the Ground Water Management Plan was enacted). Much of the reduction in use compared to 2009 can be attributed to the cooler, wetter weather experienced in 2010.

Water levels in the lower aquifer declined approximately 1 foot in 2010. Declines in many of the upper aquifer wells were larger, ranging from 2 to 4 feet. Haynes and Gregory noted that pumping reductions since 1992 are indicative that the demand management components of the Ground Water Management Plan are working. Robischon was directed to issue a press release summarizing the information presented.

3) Unfinished Business –

Framework Project Final Report Hard Copies

The group discussed the need for hard copies of the final Framework project report. A decision was made to procure 20 copies of the report and distribute them among PBAC entities according to the number of copies requested by members at the meeting

4) New Business – None Considered

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Continuation of Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Folnagy reported completion of another round of downloads. Sampling frequencies on the data loggers have been changed from 5 minute to 10 minute intervals, which will allow less frequent downloads. Folnagy asked the group to approve the purchase of additional (HOBO) on/off loggers for the (2) Garfield and (2) Albion wells. The group approved the purchase of 4 HOBO loggers for Folnagy's work and an additional logger to be used as a spare.

Tritium Testing Project

Robischon displayed an email from Lauren Carey indicating the oxygen isotope machines at UI and WSU are both down for repair. Carey also provided results of C-14 (uncorrected) age dating of the IDWR monitoring wells (ranging between 2,550 years old for the shallow well to 25,700 for the deep well) and an Albion well (18,120 years old).

Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Moran reported all is proceeding on schedule: her thesis draft is nearly complete, and she is on schedule to present her work to the group at the March meeting.

Framework Project

Nimmer reported the project is complete.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report –

Leonas reported on discussions from the February 16 CAG meeting. PBAC members present (Leonas, Kimmell, MacDonald) discussed setting future direction for CAG and a general consensus was voiced that it may be best to postpone such action until after PBAC has reviewed its goals (discussions are scheduled to begin at the March PBAC meeting). In the meantime, the CAG will go on hiatus and await further input from PBAC.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported a \$1,500 contribution was received from the City of Palouse for PBAC this calendar year. The PBAC chair will send a letter of thanks to the city and its mayor (Michael Echanove) for the contribution.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

UI WoW Thesis Proposal

Robischon reported Sandra Richartz presented her (UI WoW funded) thesis proposal titled “A Situational Assessment of the Management of the Palouse Basin Aquifer”. The project involves stakeholder interviews and will evaluate uncertainty, willingness to cooperate and social/political influences. The current schedule calls for her thesis defense to take place in May.

2010 Moscow Citizen Survey - Water Related Questions

Robischon displayed results from the 2010 survey. A majority of respondents expressed positive opinions of the quality and cost of water services, and 55% expressed “concern about the future availability of water for Moscow”.

Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study

Scallorn reported the project is continuing work on four selected watersheds, two on the south side and two on the north side of the Moscow Mountain front.

Moscow Comprehensive Water Systems Plan

Scallorn reported work continues on the water system plan, as well as a comprehensive sewer systems plan. Scallorn noted the conservation plan is also currently in review.

Snowpack

Robischon displayed larger basin (NRCS/IDWR) snowpack maps showing that the Clearwater Basin area is at nearly 100% of normal snowpack. Data from the Moscow Mountain SNOTEL site indicate that although precipitation this snow year is near normal, the amount of water remaining in the snowpack is below normal.

Other

As part of an effort to identify budget savings at IDWR, Haynes asked whether Moscow utilizes the data collected at the USGS stream gage on Paradise Creek. Scallorn responded that the City does utilize the data and requires its continued operation. The data are used as an upstream component of wastewater treatment plant flow inputs provided to the USEPA in permitting/monitoring efforts.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17 in Moscow.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted for review and approval,

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager

DRAFT