



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

May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference Room

Attendance

	UI: Michael Holthaus, Water Systems Manager	X	WSU: Mike Leonas (Chair), Director, Capital Planning & Dev.
X	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Steve Potratz, Plant Engineer – Facilities Operations
	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
X	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
	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator	X	Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Katie Moran, UI; Attila Felnagy, UI; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Justin Jolley, Law Office of Justin Jolley PLLC; Joe Spoonemore, CAG; Julie Titone, CAG-PWCN; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Michael Leonas, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

1) Approval of the April 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft April minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation/Discussion – A Situational Assessment of the Management of the Palouse Basin – Sandra Richartz

Richartz presented results of her research, funded through the UI Waters of the West program. The assessment involved a series of (15) stakeholder interviews from which information was classified into themes related to management problems, goals, and solutions. An additional study area related to uncertainty and its communication. Recommendations for PBAC from the study include consideration of: revision of the

Ground Water Management Plan, audits of entity action plans, public information campaigns, clear statements of uncertainty, exploration of alternate supply and storage, and revisiting PBAC's purpose.

3) Unfinished Business –

- **Framework Project / PBAC Goals**

Group members reported progress reviewing the Framework project final report and Terragraphics representatives will be present at next month's meeting to discuss their conclusions and recommendations.

- **Pumping Rate / Water level Analysis**

Robischon updated the group on progress since last month's meeting. Because of the slow pace of progress and the number of steps remaining to staff the position through UI, Workman volunteered that Pullman is willing to enter into a professional services agreement with Moran to accomplish the work. In return, PBAC would reduce the Pullman research assessment for FY 2012 in an amount equal to that of the services agreement. A motion was passed to proceed in that fashion. Moran will provide a copy of her project proposal to Workman.

4) New Business –

- **FY 2012 Entity Assessments**

A motion was unanimously approved to assess entities for FY 2012 in amounts equal to those from FY 2011, with the exception of Pullman, whose research assessment will be \$15,000 (\$5,000 less than FY 2011) to cover anticipated costs associated with the Pumping Rate/Water Level analysis project covered above in Unfinished Business.

- **Premix Well Monitoring Point (not included as agenda item)**

Robischon displayed an email from Jim Osiensky requesting that PBAC fund the installation of a guide tube and datalogger in the Premix well. The group discussed the request and approved the work, contingent upon Osiensky receiving express consent from the well owner to pull the pump, install a guide tube and reinstall the pump, and conduct long term monitoring.

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Moran reported her thesis defense is complete and she is now working on edits. She also reported on her presentation at the 8th Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium.

Continuation of Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

Folnagy reported work conducted determining pre-test water level trends in several monitoring wells. He plans to conduct another round of datalogger downloads this coming month and begin modeling compartmented responses using potential compartment boundaries identified in Moran's work. He will also assist Osiensky in installing a guide tube in the Premix well covered in New Business above.

Tritium Testing Project

Robischon displayed an email from Lauren Carey reporting all of the samples have now been analyzed for Oxygen-18 and Deuterium, and she is now working on spatial and mixing models. The Moscow PD well was sampled for Tritium and C-14 analyses. Carey is working on her thesis and intends to defend sometime this summer.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report –

Leonas reported there was no CAG meeting in May, and the group is awaiting further direction from PBAC.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported on the status of the budget.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study

No report.

Moscow Comprehensive Water Systems Plan

No report.

Moscow Water Conservation Plan

No report.

2011 Water Summit Planning

Kimmell reported the group is working on the structure of this year's (October 4 – Pullman) Summit. Current plans include an emphasis on public understanding of the roles and goals of PBAC and conservation efforts throughout the basin.

Snowpack

Robischon displayed data from the Moscow Mountain SNOTEL site indicating both precipitation this snow year and the amount of water remaining in the snowpack is higher than it has been in the past 5 years.

Other

Robischon reported attendance at an exempt well conference in Walla Walla (sponsored by Kimmell – Avista), announced an upcoming (June 7) Northwest ASR program in Olympia, and displayed a WDOE press release announcing a proposed water rights examiner certification program in Washington.

As this was his last PBAC meeting, the group thanked Bob Haynes for his many years of service to the Palouse basin, and wished him well in retirement

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16 in Pullman.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the June 16, 2011 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager