



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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January 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

### Moscow UI Facilities Services Center, Ponderosa Meeting 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
X	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works	X	Pullman: Barney Waldrop, City Council Member
X	Latah County: Paul Kimmell County Representative	X	Whitman County: Mark Storey, Director of Public Works
X	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 Fohnagy, UI; Katie Moran, UI; Julie Titone, CAG; Iris Mayes, Whitman Co. Planning; Rusty Post, Ecology; Guy Gregory, WDOE; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; Sheri Sanders, WSU; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Mike Leonas, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM

#### 1) Approval of the November 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Draft November minutes were approved by consensus.

#### Announcement: PBAC Membership Change – WSU

Leonas introduced Steve Potratz as a new PBAC member representing WSU. Potratz replaces Rob Corcoran on the committee. Potratz introduced himself and summarized his background at WSU. The remainder of the group introduced themselves.

#### 2) Presentation/Discussion – Snowmelt (moved from Reports item 8)

Robischon presented information from the SNOTEL site on Moscow Mountain and the USGS streamflow gage on Paradise Creek in Moscow. The rain event that occurred in

the area the previous week produced high runoff (maximum 30 cfs around noon 1/16) in the stream, and depleted a significant amount of snowpack on the mountain. Although (snow year) precipitation this year is near normal, the remaining snow water equivalent on Moscow Mountain is below normal, nearly the same as it was last year at this time.

### **3) Unfinished Business – None Considered**

### **4) New Business –**

#### **The Future of CAG**

Leonas summarized discussions from last week's CAG meeting, where concerns were voiced about the group's lack of direction. The group voiced their opinions and discussed how best to proceed. Leonas suggested conducting joint PBAC/CAG meetings and volunteered to participate. Kimmell and Workman volunteered to help, and if the meeting day can be changed (from 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday), MacDonald may also be able to participate. Leonas indicated the goal of the meetings might be to target a joint recommendation to PBAC/IDWR/WDOE by April. Titone will poll CAG members on the possibility of moving the meeting day.

#### **2011 Palouse Water Summit – Paul Kimmell**

Kimmell announced planning for the 2011 Summit will likely begin in February, and he will solicit input from members on scale/format/content. In addition, he and Jon Kimberling are exploring the potential for Palouse Water Leadership Roundtable in 2011, with more information to follow.

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

#### **Framework Project**

Nimmer reported the final project documents will go to print by Monday 1/24. The group discussed how best to share the information with the public, and the group agreed to put this item on the February PBAC agenda. Robischon will look into the costs involved in printing additional hard copies of the (320+ page) final project report.

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

Moran reported all is proceeding on schedule: her thesis draft is well underway, all monitoring has been transitioned to Fohnagy, and her current plans are to present her work at the March meeting. She has also had an abstract accepted at a USGS/WDOE hydrogeology symposium in April.

#### **Continuation of Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project**

Fohnagy handed out a sheet summarizing preliminary results of this year's pumping shutdown/test. An extended (57 hour) shutdown by WSU enabled observation of a drawdown response in the WSU Test Well to pumping in Pullman Well 8, and strong responses were seen in IDWR4 and the DOE Test well to pumping in Moscow Well 9 and UI Well 4

#### **Tritium Testing Project**

Robischon displayed Lauren Carey's status email. 24 tritium samples and 6 C-14

samples have been sent out for analysis. Carey hopes to have O-18 samples analyzed later this month.

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

Robischon reported Jerry Fairley resigned from the CAG and the group has approved bylaws (with one amendment). Once the CAG's direction has been solidified, Titone will solicit new members and submit the bylaws to PBAC for final approval. Officer elections have also been tabled for now.

#### **7) Budget Report**

Robischon announced all payments have been received from the PBAC entities, and the City of Palouse, although not a formal PBAC member, has also budgeted \$1,500 for PBAC this calendar year.

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

##### **WDOE Watershed Planning Project Proposal Submission**

Post reported a proposal for Operational Watershed Planning Implementation funding of monitoring well construction on the Palouse has been submitted. Submitted projects will be prioritized and funds awarded once final FY 11-13 biennium WA budgets have been established, possibly by April. Post and Gregory indicated allowing monitoring wells to qualify for operational grant funding represents a major step forward for areas reliant upon groundwater.

##### **UI WoW Program Theses Defenses**

Robischon reported on two thesis defenses by students in the UI WoW dual JD/MS program: Luke Marchant presented "Land Use Planning and Water Allocation: Bridging the Jurisdictional Divide", and Matt Darrington's presentation was titled "Legal Tools for Managing the Transboundary Palouse Basin Aquifers". The final theses will be posted to the WoW web site and linked to the PBAC site. Kimmell and Stroschein attended the presentations and voiced support for the work that had been done by the students. Stroschein noted that Latah County has added a water element to its updated comprehensive plan.

##### **WDOE Report, SF, Main Stem Palouse River Stream Flows, 2006-2008**

Robischon reported on the publication of a WDOE report containing streamflow information for the Palouse and South Fork of the Palouse Rivers. MacDonald reported new information from a TMDL bioassessment study may result in modifications to recommended temperature standards in Paradise Creek downstream from the Moscow WWTP.

##### **Other**

Robischon announced he will present at an upcoming law seminar in Spokane, and as a presenter is entitled to a pass that enables a guest to attend for a reduced rate. Steed will attend using the guest pass.

**9) Next Meeting –**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17 in Pullman.

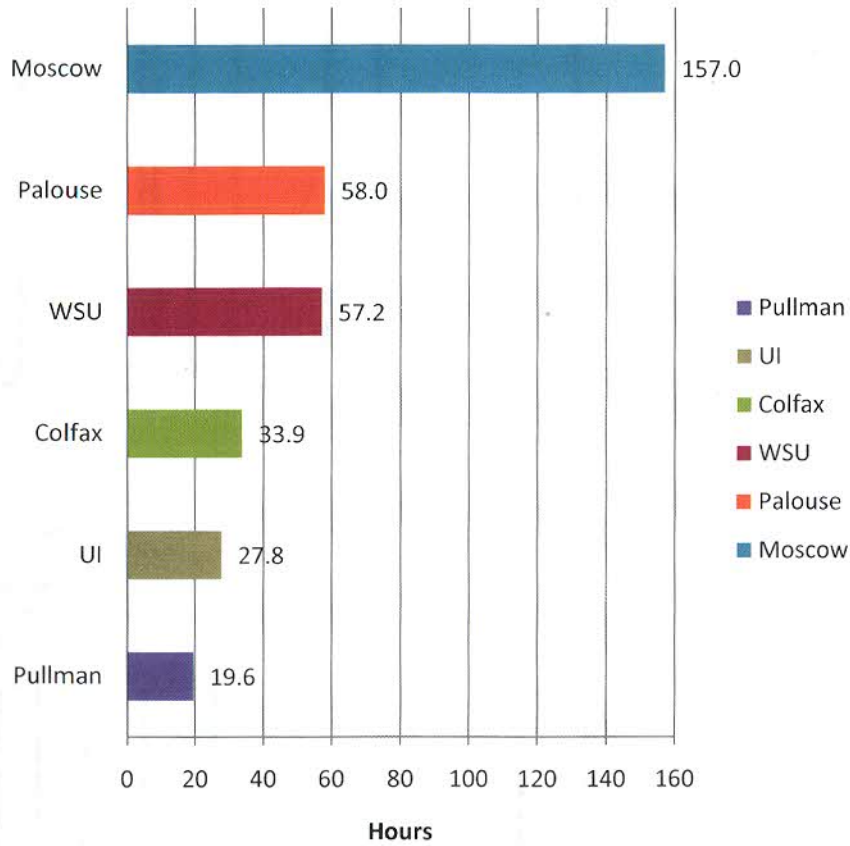
**10) Adjournment -**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

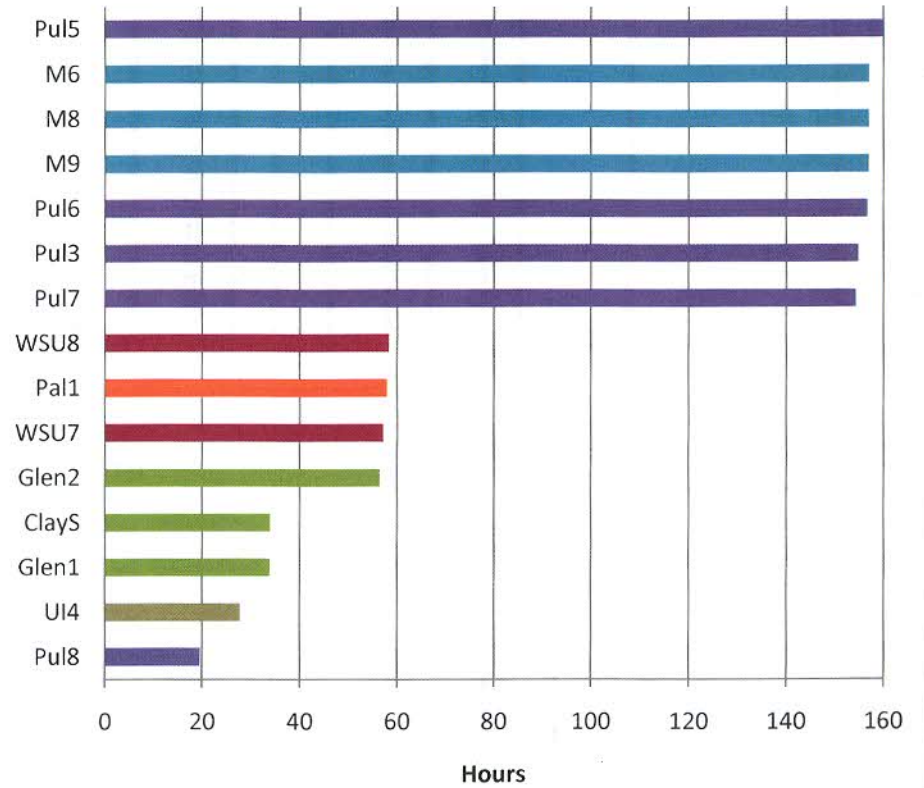
**Submitted for review and approved at the February 17, 2011 PBAC meeting.**

**Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager**

**Total off time from Nov 22 @ 2200**

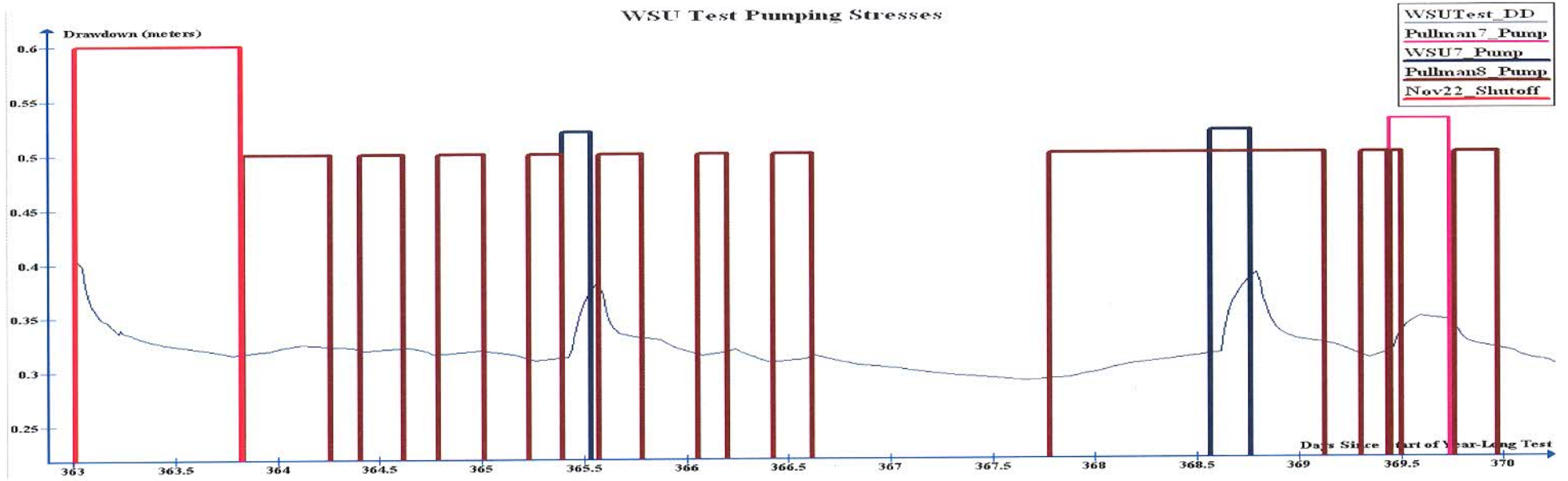


**Wells Total off Time From Nov 22 @ 2200**



# 2010 Thanksgiving Results

## WSU Test Pumping Stresses



## IDWR and DOE Stresses

