



Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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March 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Moscow UI Facilities Services Center, Jack's Creek 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		WSU: Steve Potratz, Plant Engineer – Facilities Operations
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn (Vice-Chair), Water Dept Superintendent	X	Pullman: Mark Workman, Director of Public Works
	Moscow: Walter Steed, City Council Member		Pullman: Art Garro, Maintenance & Operations Superintendent
	Moscow: Les MacDonald, Director of Public Works	X	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

Katie Moran, UI; Brenda Borer, Golder Associates; Bob Haynes, IDWR; Julie Titone, CAG; Scott Cornelius, Self; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Mike Leonas, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM

1) Approval of the February 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft February minutes were approved by consensus.

2) Presentation/Discussion – Interpretation of Long-term Grande Ronde Aquifer Testing in the Palouse Basin – Katie Moran

Moran presented results from her work on the project, including illustrations of barometric correction of raw logger data and seasonal (different in Palouse than Pullman-Moscow) and annual (same in Palouse and Pullman-Moscow) water level fluctuation patterns. The Clay Street well in Colfax does not respond in a similar fashion, exhibiting little seasonal variation and only a 2.4 meter decline in water level since 1949 (.13 ft per year, only about 1/10th that of the WSU Test Well).

Analytical modeling of the lower aquifer as a leaky confined system yielded the best fit to actual data. Short-term hydraulic connections between Pullman-Moscow and Palouse are evident. There is no evidence of connections between Pullman-Moscow and Colfax. Small variations in water levels in wells that were previously considered nonresponsive (WSU 5, Cornelius) correspond to variations in overall pumping within the basin.

Lower aquifer storativity values resulting from the analytical modeling are consistent with those found by previous modelers (3×10^{-4} to 3×10^{-5}). Using a storativity of 1×10^{-4} in a general basinwide water balance yields estimates of lower aquifer recharge on the order of annual pumping.

Moran recommended focusing future work on delineating the western and northern boundaries of the basin, continuing acquisition of water level data, and investigation of the relationship between pumping and water levels.

3) Unfinished Business –

PBAC Goals

Leonas led a discussion of the PBAC goals. After considerable discussion, the group decided upon the following process to be used for goal review:

- PBAC members review/discuss the Framework Project results during April and May
- In June, invite Terragraphics to the PBAC meeting to further discuss the recommendations from the Framework Project.
- In September, conduct a facilitated workshop to review PBAC goals

4) New Business – None Considered

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report –

Tritium Testing Project

Robischon displayed an email from Lauren Carey reporting the oxygen isotope machine is still under repair. Tritium results to date exhibit detectible tritium in several lower aquifer wells (UI 3, Pullman 3 and Pullman 5) as well as most (but not all) upper aquifer wells.

Continuation of Basinwide Aquifer Testing Project

An email from Fohnagy reports HOB0 pumping on/off loggers have been installed in Garfield, and efforts are underway to develop a more efficient method to analyze the dataset to generate aquifer properties.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report –

Leonas noted the CAG is on hiatus until receiving further direction from PBAC.

7) Budget Report

Robischon reported on the status of the budget, and a motion was passed to charge the Framework Project reproduction costs against research funds.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

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, and several draft chapters have been forwarded to the consultant for incorporation of review edits.

Moscow Water Conservation Plan

Scallorn reported he has reviewed the latest version, and Les MacDonald is in the process of reviewing the plan.

2011 Water Summit Planning

Robischon reported on a planning meeting held March 9. The 2011 Summit is scheduled for October 4 in Pullman. The theme of this year's Summit has not been finalized, and will target a length of more than half, but less than a full day. The next meeting is planned for Pullman in approximately a month.

Snowpack

Robischon displayed larger basin (NRCS/IDWR) snowpack maps showing that the Clearwater Basin area is at 108% of normal snowpack. Data from the Moscow Mountain SNOTEL site indicate that precipitation this snow year is above recent normals, and the amount of water remaining in the snowpack is near normal.

9) Next Meeting –

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 in Pullman.

10) Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Submitted for review and approved at the April 21, 2011 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager

2006 PBAC Mission and Goals

Mission:

To ensure a long-term, quality water supply for the Palouse Basin region.

Goals:

- Develop and Implement a balanced basin wide Water Supply and Use Program by 2020.
 - Create an action plan for aquifer system enhancement and alternate water supply development by 2010.
 - Direct research and implement pilot projects necessary to understand the basin hydrogeology in a manner sufficient to support the Water Supply and Use Program and the affiliated supply projects.
- Update the Palouse Basin Groundwater Management Plan to reflect the Water Supply and Use Program.
- Encourage and facilitate entities in meeting their specific pumping, conservation, efficient use, water recycling and other goals.
- Educate entities and the public on the state of the basin water supply and options for carrying out PBAC's mission and goals.
- Maintain harmonious and effective working relationships across the state line to fairly meet the needs of all entities.
- Revisit the goals and mission statement annually to ensure that they are current and reflect the goals of the group.