



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

November 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, Director, Capital Planning & Dev.
X	UI: Joe Kline, Director, Utilities and Engineering	X	WSU: Steve Potratz (Vice-Chair), Plant Engineer – Facilities Operations
X	Moscow: Tom Scallorn (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
	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
X	Colfax: Carl Thompson, City Administrator		Colfax: Andy Rogers, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors and Others

Helen Harrington, IDWR; Morgan Case, IDWR; Al Beardslee, IDWR; Nathan Moxley, WSU; Attila Fohnagy, UI; John Costello, Tetra Tech Inc., Julie Titone, PBAC CAG; Steve Robischon, PBAC

Call to Order

Tom Scallorn, PBAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM

1) Approval of the October 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft October minutes were approved without modification.

2) Presentation/Discussion – PBAC Potpourri – Current/Past/Future

Robischon reviewed PBAC project progress during the past 6 years, including funded research projects and work to fill the data gaps identified in the Framework project. He also displayed historical information related to previous work investigating the potential for supplementing supply with additional ground water and/or surface water, and drew parallels between what was happening 40 years ago and what is happening now.

3) Unfinished Business

- **Adoption of 2011 PBAC Mission and Goals**

The 2011 PBAC Mission and Goals developed at the October 20, 2011 meeting were formally adopted by the group

- **PBAC Response to UI Issues of Concern**

Workman reported on work done by a subcommittee tasked with formulating a written response to the UI Issues of Concern (brought to the group at the July 2011 PBAC meeting). He also reviewed with the group changes recommended by Steed. By group consensus, Workman will incorporate those changes adopted by the group, and Steed and MacDonald will hand deliver the final response to Dr. McIver of the UI Research Office and offer to meet to discuss any questions he may have.

- **PBAC Public Input Process/Mechanism**

At the October PBAC meeting, it was recommended that the group continue discussions related to the CAG and PBAC public input/outreach process. After extensive discussion, Kline volunteered to draft a letter to IDWR summarizing PBAC's position related to the continued function of the CAG, and public outreach and input processes. Kline will bring the draft letter back to the full group for consideration.

4) New Business –

Waldrop related a story he was told by Jerry Finch about the water bills for two trailer parks in Pullman. High water bills at one of the parks led Mr. Finch to have leak detection services performed, and by fixing leaks at the high water use park he has been able to cut water use by 27,000 gallons per month (and water bills by \$1,000 per month). Finch recommended the group or entities consider providing a means by which citizens would be able to obtain a low interest loan to identify leaks on their properties (fixing would still remain the property owner's responsibility).

5) PBAC Projects Progress Report

Robischon displayed Fohnagy's status report, and Fohnagy passed out a summary of the planned pumping schedule for the upcoming Thanksgiving pump test. A highlight of the test will be to arrange pumping schedules to allow Fohnagy to look closely at whether pumping in Garfield can be detected in Palouse, and a new higher accuracy logger in Palouse Well 3 should enable better detection of any effects of pumping in Pullman and/or Moscow wells.

Robischon also reported that Palouse has donated a currently unused direct read logger from their Well 1 for use in the Colfax Clay Street well. As PBAC had previously (October 2009) approved the purchase of a logger for a Colfax well, the group agreed that when Palouse is again in a position to use a logger in their well, PBAC will fund the purchase.

Robischon reported Terragraphics/Ralston are due to submit the maximizing upper aquifer pumping report (part of the Framework Enhanced Evaluation of High Priority Data Gaps

project) Friday 11/8, and work on the siting portion of the WDOE Palouse Monitoring Well project is on schedule. The contract amendment to the existing UI Facilities letter contract is in process.

6) Citizens Advisory Group Report – No CAG Meeting

7) Budget Report –

Robischon reported the funds have not yet been transferred over from the UI Research Office budgets, and there are currently 8 different UI budgets containing PBAC funds. He did not prepare an overall budget report this month. Once all funds have been transferred into the new agency accounts, he will present the budget summary. All FY12 payments, with the exception of the WSU research assessment, have been received.

8) Other Reports and Announcements –

• **Moscow Surface Water Reservoir Feasibility Study**

MacDonald reported a Moscow city council workshop has been scheduled for Friday, December 2, at city council chambers, beginning at 10:00 AM. The workshop will involve a review of the first phase of the project and a discussion of where the city might best focus its follow-on efforts.

• **Moscow Comprehensive Water Systems Plan**

The Plan has been through a public comment period, and the current schedule is for it to go before the Moscow public works finance committee November 28 for approval to go before the full council for adoption at its December 5 meeting.

• **Pullman Well 3**

Robischon reported the well has been decommissioned and will now serve as a monitoring well only. A data logger has been installed. The depth to water in 1962 was 26 feet; in 2011 it was 97 feet.

• **Other**

Potratz reported on a potential project to pull a pump at the WSU dairy farm to install an access tube and logger, as suggested by John Covert at a recent WDOE Palouse Monitoring Well Project siting meeting. Information from a logger there might be valuable in determining where/whether to drill monitoring well(s) south and west of the farm. WSU is not able to fund such an effort, and is requesting that PBAC present them with a proposal and funds to accomplish the work. Robischon was directed to ask Dale Ralston and Terragraphics to come up with a cost estimate for the project.

9) Next Meeting –

The next PBAC meeting is scheduled for December 15 in Pullman.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee
November 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Submitted for review and approved at the December 15, 2011 PBAC meeting.

Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager

Basinwide Grande Ronde Aquifer Test

10-21-11

2011 Thanksgiving Break Pumping Shutdown

This year, we are requesting a shorter, more controlled shut-down to focus on specific well connections within the basin (Garfield Pumping Effects). Please review the schedule below and contact Attila if you have any questions or concerns.

Schedule

Monday, 11/21

10:00 pm All pumping stops

Tuesday 11/22

10:00 am Garfield only (and as needed through 11/25)

4:00 pm WSU7 only (and as needed through 11/25)

10:00 pm Pullman 6 only (and as needed through 11/25)
Moscow 2 (or 3 or both, only Wanapum)

Wednesday 11/24

Morning UI 3 (or 4)

Afternoon Palouse (1 or 3)
Glenwood booster pumps

Thursday 11/25 Resume pumping as normal

Important considerations:

- Do not use more than one pumping well (per municipality) until Thursday (11/25).
- Fill tanks to full capacity in the hours/days preceding the start of the pump test.
- Adjust automatic thresholds so pumps won't accidentally turn on early.

Please contact Attila Fohnagy (attila.fohnagy@vandals.uidaho.edu, (208) 640-3198) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.