



## Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

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October 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

### Pullman City Hall, East End (Large) Conference 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
	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
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

Guy Gregory, WDOE; Helen Harrington, IDWR; Morgan Case, IDWR – Northern Region; Al Beardslee, IDWR Northern; Bill Spence, Lewiston Tribune; Robin Nimmer, Terragraphics; Nathan Moxley, WSU; Bryan Donaldson, WSU; Dale Ralston, Ralston Hydrologic Services; Julie Titone, PBAC CAG; Steve Robischon, PBAC

#### Call to Order

Steve Potratz, PBAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM

#### 1) Approval of the September 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Draft September minutes were approved by consensus.

#### 2) WDOE Palouse Monitoring Well Project –

Gregory updated the group on the status of the project. The general scope includes the drilling of 4 wells, with a 5<sup>th</sup> as an add-on option. The well construction design specification will be funded by PBAC; well construction will be accomplished through a \$350K grant from WDOE. Pullman will administer the grant/construction contract. Nimmer described a proposal to identify drilling sites and modify an existing WDOE construction specification (created for monitoring wells in the Hangman Creek area).

The group passed a motion to extend the existing professional services contract with Terragraphics (in an amount not to exceed \$20K) to accomplish the design portion of the project.

### 3) PBAC Goals Review – Rob Buchert, Facilitator

- **PBAC Goals Review -**

Buchert introduced the topic tasks as a review of PBAC mission and goals and a review of the past recommendations and the future direction of CAG

The group discussed its mission and goals, and, by consensus, decided upon the following as the draft 2011 PBAC Mission and Goals:

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#### **DRAFT 2011 PBAC Mission and Goals**

##### Mission:

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

##### Goals:

- Consistent with the Palouse Basin Groundwater Management Plan, develop and Implement a balanced basin wide Water Supply and Use Program by 2025.
  - Create and maintain an action plan for aquifer system sustainability, enhancement and/or alternate water supply development.
  - 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.
  - Encourage and facilitate entities in meeting their specific pumping, conservation, efficient use, water recycling and other goals.
- Review the Palouse Basin Groundwater Management Plan.
- Educate entities and the public on the state of the basin water supply and the status of 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.

- **CAG Recommendations and Future -**

After a brief break, the group reconvened, and Buchert handed out a list of past CAG recommendations. The group discussed each recommendation and the extent to which it had been accomplished.

Titone summarized her perspective on the recent past activities of the CAG. MacDonald handed out a sheet summarizing the suggestions related to a citizens advisory group that were contained in an IDWR order from December 2004. The handout also contained other options that might be considered as future efforts of CAG.

The group discussed the future of the CAG, and more generally how best to accomplish outreach and public input. Buchert recommended the topic be included on the agenda for the next PBAC meeting.

**4) Next Meeting –**

The next PBAC meeting is scheduled for November 17 in Moscow.

**5) Adjournment -**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

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

**Steve Robischon, PBAC Executive Manager**

**Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee**  
**Goals Review Workshop**  
**October 20, 2011**  
**1:15 – 4:00 PM**

- 1:15 PM Introduction, Purpose & Ground Rules
- 1:30 Review Mission Statement (*Handout*)
- 1:35 Review 2006 Goals (*Handout*)
- Amendments, Additions, Deletions
  - Next Steps?
- 3:15 BREAK
- 3:25 Review CAG Recommendations (*Handout*)
- Four Technical Recommendations – Status?
  - Build Relationship with WoW – Status?
  - Support Wastewater Reuse Project (write letter) – Completed.
  - Fund Public Information Campaign – Not pursued. Response provided.
- 3:40 Future Role of CAG?
- 4:00 Adjourn

**Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee  
(PBAC)  
2006 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.

### **CAG Recommendation #1 (March 16, 2006)**

#### **Summary Technical Recommendations**

1. Hire a fulltime hydrogeologist (or equivalent professional) as manager for the program. Responsibilities will include; writing a sound applied geohydrologic characterization plan to understand the Palouse Basin aquifer system, supervising the implementation and research segments of the plan and applying for grants/contracts to supplement existing research funding.
2. Develop a sound applied geohydrologic characterization plan with input from the many scientists interested in the Palouse Basin aquifer system as well as input from a social and environmental perspective.
3. Consider reducing the number of active participants on the PBAC committee from 15 to a more reasonable number recognizing that having elected officials and technical experts on the committee is very useful.
4. Commend PBAC entities for good work in coordinating water conservation programs and fostering excellent cooperation among a complex mix of state, city and county governments.

### **CAG Recommendation #2 (October 2006)**

Begin an open dialog with and seek to build a long-term relationship with the Waters of the West (WoW) program at the University of Idaho.

### **CAG Recommendation – Wastewater Reuse Project Support (January 2007)**

Join the CAG in support of the reuse facility and develop a letter of support for the project to be sent to Olympia.

### **CAG Recommendation – Acknowledge Conservation Efforts (May 2008)**

Officially acknowledge the conservation efforts of local communities.

### **CAG Recommendation – Fund Public Information Campaign (February 2009)**

Offer a \$20,000 grant to develop a public information campaign.

## CAG DIRECTION

### IDWR Order

- Develop recommendations for consideration by PBAC for revisions to the ground water management plan adopted by PBAC and recommendations for implementation strategy to effectively accomplish management plan goals.
- Develop recommendations for consideration by PBAC for water conservation and recommendations for implementation strategy
- Develop recommendations for consideration by PBAC for peer review of research and objectives for future research
- Develop recommendations for public participation in implementation of the ground water management plan adopted by PBAC.

### Other Options

- Develop public outreach program
  - Educate populace on structure, intent, goals, and accomplishments of PBAC
  - Promote water conservation
- Gather input on citizen perspectives on proposed regional and individual water supply preservation/supplementation initiatives such as ASR, SWR, enhanced recharge, effluent reuse, etc.