

PALOUSE BASIN AQUIFER committee

Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 2:00 PM

UI, FACILITIES SERVICES CENTER, JACK'S CREEK Room 151

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89485239499> Passcode PBAC

1) Introductions

- a. HDR team provided introductions - Jeff Hansen, Anna Marandi and Scott King

X: In-person attendance

V: Video attendance

v	Pullman: Cara Haley City Engineer	x	Moscow: Tyler Palmer (Chair) Deputy Director, Public Works & Services
v	Pullman: Sean Wells Public Works Director		Moscow: Kyle Steele Environmental Services Manager
v	Pullman: Nathan Weller City Council Member	v	Moscow: Hailey Lewis City Council Member
x	Whitman County: Mark Storey Public Works Director		Latah County: Paul Kimmell County Representative
x	Whitman County: Chad Whetzel County Commissioner	v	Latah County: Tom Lamar County Commissioner
x	WSU: Jeff Lannigan (Vice-Chair) Facilities Services	v	UI: Lana Cohen Research Associate
	WSU: Jason Sampson Asst Director, Environmental Services	x	UI: Rusty Vineyard Director of Facilities
	WA, Dept of Ecology: Patrick Cabbage Unit Supervisor/Hydrogeologist	v	ID, Water Resources: Michelle Richman Regional Manager/Staff Engineer
v	WA, Dept of Ecology: Chris Beard Hydrogeologist	v	ID, Water Resources: Daniel Sturgis Hydrogeologist

Others in attendance: Mike Faupel, Erin Geslani, David Hall, Eileen MacColl, Scott King, Steve Robischon, Anna Marandi, Colt Shelton, Luke Kawano, Jake Garringer, Jeff Hanson, Meg Wolf, Diane Cornelius

2) Approval of Minutes

- a. [February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) Motion Cohen, Second Vineyard, passed 2:10

3) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda -- none

4) Unfinished Business - none

5) New Business

- a. VOTE – contract with Alta Science and Engineering for 2025 datalogger download from the Palouse Groundwater Basin well network well network. A copy of the contract was provided in the Committee pre-meeting packet.

- b. Monitoring this network of 34 wells is a key part of PBAC's work. Keeping this with Alta will ensure consistency and continuing our high-quality data set
 - c. Alta has worked on keeping this cost as low as possible.
 - d. Total cost estimate is \$12,562 with a \$4000 contingency in case of unscheduled datalogger replacement or unforeseen issues. Total cost for 2024 was \$16,328.
 - e. Upon PBAC approval, this contract will be submitted to UI for execution on our behalf.
 - f. * Motioned to approve, with a total cost as described above - Cohen, Second Vineyard – PASS 2:16
- 6) Presentations & Discussion
- a. 2024 Pumping and Well Levels – Steve Robischon
 - b. Water Conservation outreach and education in Latah County – Erin Geslani
- 7) Subcommittee Reports
- a. Clearwater River RFQ –
 - i. The Subcommittee met February 24 and decided to recommend HDR to Moscow City Council.
 - b. City of Lewiston meetings were held in March to discuss this study– Tyler/Mayor Bettge, then Tyler/Mike
 - c. Budget- Rusty Vineyard
 - d. Communications
 - i. Met March 18
 - ii. Dates for SEG and Research Colloquium meetings will be determined when we have more certainty regarding the City of Moscow contract to study a potential Clearwater River Diversion and HDR's availability
 - iii. Brainstormed on Clearwater Diversion study outreach
 - iv. Mike & Erin met with City of Palouse Mayor Tim Sievers March 13 to discuss water conservation education and outreach. Participation in SEG and the possibility of a formal relationship with PBAC was also discussed.
 - e. Technical –
 - i. Did not meet this month.
 - ii. Dr. Langman has provided an update on the upcoming passive aquifer recharge research project. He's doing some preliminary GIS work to identify wells in the basin and is recruiting a graduate student. This is on track to launch late Spring.
 - iii. Will re-commence regular meetings in April to address some components of the Clearwater Diversion study, upcoming passive aquifer recharge research project, and upcoming Research Colloquium
- 8) Other Reports and Announcements
- a. Lana Cohen has been promoted to Research Scientist by UI in recognition of her extensive scientific background
- 9) Next PBAC Meeting:
- a. Thursday, April 17 at 2:00 PM
- 10) Recess – Executive Session

- a. An additional Executive Session will be held in April to continue the staffing discussion.

11) Adjourn