

PALOUSE BASIN AQUIFER committee

Approved minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 2:00 PM
 UI, FACILITIES SERVICES CENTER, JACK'S CREEK Room 151
<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89485239499> Passcode PBAC

1) Introductions

X: In-person attendance

V: Video attendance

v	Pullman: Cara Haley City Engineer	x	Moscow: Tyler Palmer (Chair) Deputy Director, Public Works & Services
x	Pullman: Frank Mulcahy Public Works Director	v	Moscow: Kyle Steele Environmental Services Manager
	Pullman: Nathan Weller City Council Member	x	Moscow: Bryce Blankenship City Council Member
x	Whitman County: Mark Storey Public Works Director		Latah County: Paul Kimmell County Representative
x	Whitman County: Chad Whetzel County Commissioner		Latah County: Tom Lamar County Commissioner
x	WSU: Jeff Lannigan (Vice-Chair) Facilities Services	v	UI: Lana Cohen Research Scientist
	WSU: Jason Sampson Asst Director, Environmental Services	x	UI: Lee Espey Associate Vice President, Operations
v	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		ID, Water Resources: Daniel Sturgis Hydrogeologist

Others in attendance: Mike Faupel, Erin Geslani, Steve Robischon, Eileen Maccoll, Roopal Jani (Alta), Miki Waters (Alta), Sean Wells, Meg Wolf, Colt Shelton, Ken Clark, Jeff Hansen, Anna Marandi, Grace Peven (IWRRI), Scotty Cornelius, Jeff Stuart, Jake Bender (Ardurra)

1) Introductions

- a. Frank Mulcahy was introduced by Sean Wells
- b. Bryce Blankenship introduced himself
- 2) Approval of Minutes November 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved at 2:10
- 3) Announcements - none
- 4) Public Comment on Items not on Agenda - none
- 5) Unfinished Business - none
- 6) New Business - none
- 7) Presentations & Discussion

- 1) A Water Conservation outreach program update was provided by Erin Geslani
 - 2) HDR updates were provided by Jeff Hansen. These are related to their investigation of a diversion from the Clearwater River as a supplemental water supply. This is a contracted project with the City of Moscow on PBAC's behalf.
 - 3) The 2025 well monitoring report was provided by Mikhala Waters, Alta Science & Engineering. Alta monitors levels of wells throughout the basin on PBAC's behalf to understand the status of our water supply.
- 8) Subcommittee Reports
- 1) Communications – met December 16 and discussed:
 - i. Stakeholder engagement planning regarding the Clearwater River Diversion as an alternative water supply study, with HDR Engineering
 - ii. Short outreach videos explaining the need for a supplemental municipal water supply and the potential Clearwater River Diversion study
 - iii. Research/Technical Colloquium will be conducted, likely March 11
 1. The draft agenda includes:
 - a. HDR technical updates
 - b. PBAC-sponsored passive aquifer recharge project
 - c. Results of WHOI 2022 well samples
 - d. Idaho water research strategy
 - e. Water governance
 - f. Columbia Basin groundwater conditions
 - g. Gathering information on research opportunities, success with other aquifers, new research tools
 - 2) Technical – did not meet
 - 3) Finance – Lee Espey provided an update.
- 9) Other Reports and Announcements
- 10) Next PBAC Meeting:
- 1) Thursday, February 19 at 2:00 pm