

PALOUSE BASIN AQUIFER committee

Approved minutes

Thursday, February 19, 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		Moscow: Tyler Palmer (Chair) Deputy Director, Public Works & Services
x	Pullman: Frank Mulcahy Public Works Director	v	Moscow: Kyle Steele Environmental Services Manager
v	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
	WA, Dept of Ecology: Chris Beard Hydrogeologist		ID, Water Resources: Daniel Sturgis Hydrogeologist

Others in attendance:

Mike Faupel, Erin Geslani, Isaac Hall, Tom Scanlon, Ken Clark, David Hall, Colt Shelton, Steve Robischon, Luke Kawamo, John Konen, Roopal Jani, John Slagboom

2) Approval of Minutes

- a. January 15, 2026 meeting minutes Approved at 2:03 pm M Whetzel/S Espey

3) Announcements - none

4) Public Comment on Items not on Agenda - none

5) Unfinished Business -none

6) New Business

- a. ***VOTE*** Alta Science and Engineering contract datalogger downloads contract. This is to collect well level data from throughout the Palouse Basin, Alta has been doing this for PBAC since 2019 and continuing this service would help preserve data

integrity. The proposed scope of work and cost estimates have been provided to the Committee, the expected cost is \$13,817.00 with a contingency of \$4000.00. Cost for 2025 was \$17,126.00, including extra work for documentation of the datalogger analysis process. *Motioned by Steele/Second by Whetzel, approved at 2:07 p.m.* This will be sent to University of Idaho for a contract execution.

7) Presentations & Discussion

- a. Well monitoring analysis – Steve Robischon. PBAC’s Technical Advisor provided an analysis of PBAC’s well level monitoring in the basin for 2025.
- b. Water Conservation outreach program – Erin Geslani provided an update
- c. HDR updates. 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.

8) Subcommittee Reports

- a. Communications – met February 17. Discussions included:
 - i. Outreach videos update
 - ii. Research/Technical Colloquium – March 11, 3-7 pm at Best Western in Moscow. Academics, water professionals and other interested parties are invited. Agenda includes:
 1. HDR technical updates
 2. PBAC-sponsored passive aquifer recharge research project
 3. Water governance presentation
 4. Columbia Basin groundwater conditions
 5. Gathering information on research opportunities, success with other aquifers, new research tools
- b. Technical – met earlier in the day, discussed aspects of acquiring a water right from the state of Idaho and verification of the amount of water potentially needed as a supplemental supply
- c. Finance – Lee Espey provided an update.

9) Other Reports and Announcements

- a. Isaac Hall updated on his progress sampling wells for the PBAC-funded passive aquifer recharge research project. He’s sampled 25 wells and samples have been sent for analysis, he’s hoping for 30 additional well samples.

10) Next PBAC Meeting:

- a. Thursday, March 19 at 2:00 pm

11) Adjournment was at 3:08 pm