

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE:

*****Daytime Meeting*** Wednesday, February 17th, 2009, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, at Lincoln County Public Works Department in Davenport.**

Minutes from the WRIA 53 Monthly Meeting

**LOWER LAKE ROOSEVELT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT
Lincoln County Public Works - Davenport, WA
January 20th, 2010 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE: (26)

Gene St.Godard, WNR Group
Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County Commissioner
Molly Reid, GSI Water Solutions
Jaime Short, Ecology
Roger Savage, Campbell Bay Water Assoc.
George Rodeck, Resident
Greg Behrens, Columbia Springs
Penny Rosenberg, Landowner
Mike Carstensen, Resident
Richard Dreger, Resident
Jim Barbieri, Resident
Jerry Vaughan, Lincoln Planning
Dennis Bly, Lincoln Co. Comm.

Kayti Didricksen, USBOR
Courtney Harder, Lincoln County Planning
Jim DeGraffenreid, Lincoln County Planning
David Lundgren, LCCD
Ellen Savage, Landowner
Scott Barr, Landowner
Lon Ottson, USBOR
Dean White, LCCD
Elsa Coffman, LCCD
Chester Templin, Resident
Tom Schultz, LCCD
Bob Derkey, Spokane
Kevin Lindsey, GSI Water Solutions

SESSION CALLED TO ORDER:

Gene St.Godard with WNR Group, facilitator for the WRIA 53 Planning Group, opened the meeting at 10:35 AM. Gene thanked the group for attending the monthly Planning Unit meeting for WRIA 53. Gene gave a brief overview of how the meeting would be conducted, and then began the meeting by making sure everyone had a copy of the agenda for the meeting. Gene asked if any additions to the agenda were needed. No changes were requested.

Introduction of Participants

Gene opened the floor for people attending the meeting to introduce themselves and who they were representing. Introductions were made around the room. It appeared there was a diversified group of water users who were attending the meeting. The list of participants is presented above.

MEETING DISCUSSION AND COMMENT:

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

A copy of the December minutes was distributed to the participants. Gene asked if any edits and/or modifications were needed to the prepared meeting summary. No edits or modifications were made to the December minutes and they were accepted by general consensus.

Presentation by Kevin Lindsey, GSI Water Solutions, on the Results of the Columbia Basin GWMA Hydrostratigraphic Mapping Project

Kevin Lindsey of GSI Water Solutions prepared a power point presentation on the Columbia Basin GWMA Hydrostratigraphic Mapping project. The mapping project looked at: 1) subsurface geologic mapping; 2) groundwater chemistry (age dating); and 3) water levels, to develop a conceptual hydrogeologic model of the Columbia Basin basalt aquifers. The mapping results interpreted the distribution of aquifer host units, defined the boundaries of the aquifers, estimated where the recharge areas were located, and defined the aquifer interconnection of the layered basalt aquifer system. The mapping project confirmed that there is little to none connection and recharge from Lake Roosevelt to the basalt aquifers. Interpretation of water levels showed basalt aquifer water levels were a couple hundred higher feet higher in elevation than Lake Roosevelt levels (indicating no hydraulic continuity) and basalt interflows were sloping to the south.

The water age dating also showed that most deeper aquifers were greater than 10,000 years in age (which indicates the water has been at the well location for 10,000 years, or it has taken 10,000 years for the water to travel to the well from its recharge location), neither which is a good indicator for the aquifer sustainable yields. Younger water was found in some of the shallow basalts, or there was a mixed signature. In general, most of the

groundwater in the Grande Ronde aquifers is more than 10,000 years old, which means most of the lower part of the basalt aquifer system has not been recharged since the end of the last ice age.

Analyses of groundwater level measurements show that there is limited movement vertically between the basalt aquifers. Kevin presented several graphs showing the lower aquifers are generally declining at a faster rate than the upper aquifers. Overall, natural recharge to the aquifers is minimal to slow, and there are very few places to actually recharge the Grande Ronde aquifer, and where it does get recharge from the basin margins, it is a long distance to get to the wells in the area of the Columbia Basin GWMA. However, some recharge does seem to occur at the Wanapum-Grande Ronde contact where coulees are cut into the basalts. However, at the present time, water in these coulees is minimal or non-existent. Getting water into these coulees may assist with the recharge of the basalt aquifers.

Horizontal flow of groundwater across the Columbia Basin may also be impeded by faults and/or dikes which truncate the basalt interflow aquifers. These features appear in the central and southern areas of the basin. Pinch-outs are also common throughout the drainage which bifurcate an interflow into two or more thinner interflows.

In summary, groundwater occurrence in the basalt aquifers is governed by: 1) geologic conditions (lithology, stratigraphy and structure), 2) extent of which interflows outcrop at surface water sources (e.g. coulees), and 3) interfingering in the subsurface. Deepening wells in the basin is a temporary solution and little to no recharge is getting to the existing pumping wells.

Update by Courtney Harder on GIS Water Inventory Project

Courtney gave the Planning Unit a status report on the Water Inventory Project. She is still currently proceeding on developing the GIS information and will have a more detailed update for the planning unit at the February meeting.

Discussion on Water Level Monitoring

The LCCD has begun to contact property owners who have volunteered their wells for monitoring and is currently beginning to monitor wells. Additional landowners are being contacted for access to wells. The project is moving forward and well level information should be available in the next couple of months.

Discussion on Governor's Proposed Budget

The governor's budget still stands as previously proposed where no watershed planning funding will occur after June 2010. General consensus of the Planning Unit is they wish to continue planning efforts. Gene will begin to look for additional funding alternatives for the planning unit.

Public Comment

Gene announced that the LCCD will be having additional Passive Rehydration public meetings on January 27th at 10 am in Wilbur and 3 pm in Odessa. The meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in the Passive Rehydration project.

Setting of Next Meeting Time

A discussion was held on scheduling the next meeting. It was determined that the next meeting will be scheduled for February 17th, 2010 from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Lincoln County Public Works Building in Davenport.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. If you have any questions please call Gene St.Godard at (509) 468-4876 or send an email message to Gene at stgod@comcast.net