

**Summary of Spokane Valley –Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer study (SVRP)
Management Committee (MAC) meeting
March 3, 2004
University of Idaho Tech Center, Post Falls**

Attendees:

René Marc Mangin, Washington Department of Ecology
Keith Stoffel, Washington Department of Ecology
Bob Haynes, Idaho Department of Water Resources
Paul Castelin, Idaho Department of Water Resources
Hal Anderson, Idaho Department of Water Resources
Kathy Peter, U.S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho
Cyndi Barton, U.S. Geological Survey, Tacoma, Washington
Mark Savoca, U.S. Geological Survey, Tacoma, Washington,
Project Technical Leadership Team (PTLT)
Jani Gilbert, Washington Department of Ecology public information manager

Guests: Jeff Selle, Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce
Neil Beaver, The Lands Council

Status Reports

WORK PLAN

Mark Savoca reported that the USGS is moving ahead with Task A, part 5, as well as Task D, as well as confirming resources for the Web site. . This work is in accordance with consensus decisions reached by the MAC on 1/30/04.

IDWR has a link available. This is the address:
www.idwr.state.id.us/hydrologic/projects/svrp

ACTION ITEM: Everyone should look at the site and report back as to its adequacy.

Mark also reported that USGS is moving ahead with a well inventory to assess the current distribution of wells in the study area and moving ahead with an exhaustive literature review that will result in an annotated bibliography. They are trying to select approximately 50 wells for the first year to obtain monthly monitoring data. Besides manual monitoring, they want to use continuous recorders in as many wells as possible.

Kathy Peter reported that the USGS is getting staff lined up to do field work.

Mark stressed that QA-QC (quality assurance-quality control) is critical to verify the accuracy of the information being collected. They are using the USGS operated records system and beginning to develop maps to use as tools for well selection.

ACTION ITEM: The question was asked whether data managers should meet about sharing the inventory of GIS data. Should they meet in a conference call? Mark Savoca is facilitating this effort and will get contact names for Washington and Idaho.

ACTION ITEM: *Kathy Peters and Jani will collect action items from the last meeting to add to these “minutes.”*

The group reviewed the cost of today’s meeting (\$677.50, which is higher than future meetings will be). This meeting will be paid for by USGS and the bill for subsequent meetings will be handled on a rotation, if this is approved by Ecology management. It was agreed that the cost of these meetings should come from the project funds.

ACTION ITEM: Keith will check with Joe Stohr to make sure this rotation of funding responsibility is OK.

ACTION ITEMS: Mark Savoca and Sue Kahle will meet with Guy Gregory (new Ecology project manager) early next week to discuss Guy’s new role. They will have very close contact and will avoid any duplication of efforts.

Some discussion took place about an Idaho DEQ report from John Riley that did not supply enough information about the number of wells drilled in the Coeur d’Alene area. But even so, some wells may be suitable for monitoring.

ACTION ITEMS: The PTLT needs to get together to select individuals for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Jani will get to Guy Gregory the resumes received last year and the guidance she collected about forming TACs.

Hal Anderson said that the construction of a surface water model needs to be considered this fiscal year even though it is not in the current work plan. He pointed out that it is in the original Scope of Work, ’03. He said we should think ahead and discuss how we want to address that task.

ACTION ITEM: Must discuss and come up with concrete objectives for this modeling task.

Hal Anderson said that this group needs to enlist the support of the Water Resources Institute at University of Idaho. The institute’s lead modeler, Donna Cosgrove, is available to participate in this project after July 1.

Hal said that, for Idaho, the number one priority is surface and groundwater modeling. He said he hopes for funding from this project to pay for Donna’s time between July and October. He said we should incorporate the modeler into the first year of these proceedings, even though we won’t get a full-blown model.

ACTION ITEM: USGS will put together a budget for the tasks outlined in the current work plan, divided up by task.

ACTION ITEM: Washington and USGS should have an opportunity to review Donna's resume and credentials. IDWR will send that around.

Cyndi Barton said that it is clear that if we take on modeling with Donna this year, we are talking about a reduction in the work, specified in the work plan, which can be done during the first year.

ACTION ITEM: Donna will be asked to put together a proposal for modeling support for July-October, 2004.

Hal suggested that we need to include organizations outside of the state and federal government in this effort, such as the institute and universities.

FUNDING

Keith Stoffel said that the Washington Legislature will confirm in the next two weeks whether we have Washington's \$100,000 state match.

Hal said Idaho has an appropriation of \$80,000 of in-kind support for this year including staff time and operational expenses.

Idaho State Representative Wayne Meyers' statement: "With the assistance of the state of Idaho and the state of Washington, the United States Geological Survey is conducting a study of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. It is the legislative intent that the Department of Water Resources provide Idaho's match to ensure the timely completion of this study. The match requirements may be met through technical assistance or other in-kind services, and if necessary, through actual dollars within the department's current budget."

Hal said that if a cash match is essential, local entities could donate it and move it through the department as the match.

Jani and Rene-Marc said that the source of money for this project would be sensitive to some and could call the objectivity of the study into question.

Neil Beaver and Jeff Selle said that they are asking Congress for a continuation of the study money (\$500,000) through USGS and for another \$1 million from EPA and VA HUD for 2005. Neil stressed that they need a firm cash match from the states when they go to D.C. to lobby for the funding. He said they won't get more money if they can't show state support.

Hal said an emergency supplemental budget item may be a possibility, however, only Karl Dreher could make that commitment.

Neil and Jeff said they'd work with Gov. Kempthorne and Jim Yost to get a cash match from Idaho.

ACTION ITEM: Hal will send Idaho budget language to Jeff Selle.

ACTION ITEM: States need to discuss and articulate evaluation criteria for this project.

ACTION ITEMS: Jani asked that the PTLT and the MAC decide who will give updates at the “interim steering committee” (stakeholder) meeting on April 7. Brief updates are needed on MAC activities and decisions, and on technical progress, and on funding issues. Also Bob Haynes and Jani will discuss clear definition of Policy Advisory Committee roles prior to April 7.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS from January 30 MAC meeting:

Action Item - USGS will find out what is required to demonstrate/track expenditures by states for SVRP study (expenditures are restricted to technical performance of SVRP study tasks approved by the MAC). *Outstanding*

Action Item – Bob will advise MAC on scope and cost of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality contract with John Riley to evaluate previous SVRP aquifer investigations. Bob will also distribute copy of Riley’s report as soon as he can. *Bob reported that the report wouldn’t meet this projects needs, however the well data may be useful. Ongoing.*

Action Item The Peer Review Team (PRT) and Policy Advisory Committee will be established at the next meeting. *Peer Review Team members identified so far are Devin Galloway, USGS Western Region Ground-Water Specialist, and Garth Newton, IDWR. Ongoing.*

Action Item – State members of the MAC will discuss soliciting Interim Steering Committee for PAC membership. *Jani Gilbert will provide information for contact list. A meeting of the Interim Steering Committee is set for April 7, 2 p.m..., Post Falls Library. Ongoing.*

Action Item - As a first step towards preparing the model, the PTLT will fully evaluate existing models for applicability, portability, and sensitivity. The TAC will be asked to assist with this evaluation. *Ongoing* Kathy will modify the work plan to add this step prior to model development. *(Revised work plan was sent after January 30, 2004 meeting to MAC).*

Action Item USGS will begin the “Review of Past Investigations” (A.4 of work plan). *See meeting minutes on progress.*

Action Item – PTLT (Mark Savoca) will organize meeting of USGS and state database and GIS managers to discuss needs and ideas for data sharing. PTLT will address states’ concern about access to the new USGS water-use database management system, SWUDS. PTLT will then evaluate best data management methods and recommend a

process to the MAC. An important component of this discussion will be the sharing of GIS information and the associated metadata. *Outstanding.*

Action Item - USGS will prepare cost estimates to perform these specific SVRP workplan tasks for FY04 and provide them to the MAC. These cost estimates will take into consideration those direct services (and possible matching funds) that can be provided by the states this fiscal year. The MAC will then prioritize the remaining tasks and decide how they will be accomplished. *USGS will send budget before next MAC meeting. Both states have offered assistance for field work; Annette Campbell or Sue Kahle will contact Garth Newton and Guy Gregory to schedule staff. States need to provide their projected contributions to workplan activities for incorporation in the budget.*