

Rathdrum-Spokane Aquifer

Policy Advisory Committee

(Executive team)

Meeting

Oct. 26, 2004

(Prepared by Jani Gilbert 11-3-04)

Attended:

Annette Duerock, Panhandle Health District

Gary Stevens, Idaho DEQ

Julia McHugh , Spokane Aquifer Joint Board

Jani Gilbert, WA. Dept. of Ecology

Allison Gray, WA Dept. of Ecology

Mike Peterson , The Lands Council

Neil Beaver, Sen. Lisa Brown's office

Bob Haynes, IDWR

Guy Gregory, WA. Dept. of Ecology

Study and Funding Update:

The group heard from Guy Gregory of Ecology's water resources program, who is a member of the PTLT (Project Technical Leadership Team) about the study's current status, study progress made, and status of '05 work plan.

Guy, or Mark Savoca, or another member of the PTLT will update the larger PAC on Nov. 9, and again will update the general public on Jan. 27, 2005.

Neil asked Guy about the sufficiency of current funding. Guy responded that there is enough money (with the Congressional appropriation announced by Patty Murray's office in the summer) to create a model.

Bob Haynes says that the North Idaho Basins sub group of an Interim Legislative Committee studying ground water problems across Idaho will ask the committee as a whole to request \$150,000 a year for two years from the Idaho Legislature to support the SVRP aquifer study.

In Washington, \$150,000 is ear-marked in the Governor's budget for next year's match.

Education/Outreach/Information efforts:

Julia appealed to the group for help funding an **aquifer school curriculum** to be used in both Washington and Idaho. Allison Gray and Annette Duerock suggested compiling existing aquifer curriculum pieces and promoting them. This would be instead of creating a new product, because we are having trouble getting teachers to use curriculum that already exists in both states. For this project, several people made grant suggestions and promised to follow up with details.

We are spending \$3,000 to purchase 600 **updated Aquifer Atlases** that will contain information about the study. It is now in the final stages of being updated.

Again, we want to **send atlases to elected officials** (federal, state and local) and other decision-makers with a cover letter that explains the status of the study and the successes of the technical folks working on it!

Other organizations paying for more atlas printing include EWU, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Idaho DEQ through the Panhandle Health District, the city of Spokane, and the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources.

Public Meeting

Plans are under way for a January 27, 2005 **public meeting** for stakeholders at Templins from 6:30-9 p.m. Mike Petersen did the research into costs at Templins and Jani is following up to pre-pay for the room and beverages only. The cost for the room is \$150. (Cookies were incredibly expensive, at more than \$20 per dozen...so, NO COOKIES FOR YOU.) In addition, we will want to run a newspaper ad or two in the Spokesman Review and Inlander to publicize the meeting. (Jani will do news release as well.)

In January, we will to run a larger **ad in the Inlander** (week-long shelf-life and cheaper than the Spokesman) with a brief study update and instructions about how to get a new atlas. It will also promote the public meeting on the 27th. Looking into the cost. If we want to do an insert, the Inlander charges \$2,160 and the insert would reach 45,000 people.

We would like to print and distribute more **brochures**. They could be handed out at the myriad of meetings being held surrounding the Spokane River.

As a reminder, our education **outreach goals** are:

- To reinforce that the study is on-going and will be for a few years (Neil has received calls from constituents who think the study has already been completed.)
- To make sure elected officials at all levels of government are kept apprised of the study's progress.
- To keep relevant local government offices up-to-date.
- To help ensure funding continuation.

- To help ensure public buy-in for the study results.
- General public awareness.

Meetings

- The **PAC's Executive Team will meet on January 6, 2005 from 3-5 p.m.**, likely in Liberty Lake. Because of the holidays, we will not have our usual fourth Tuesday meetings in November or December.
- The whole PAC will be invited to attend a meeting on **November 9th at 3 p.m. at the Post Falls Library.** At the meeting on April 7th, 2004 at the Post Falls Library, we decided that that whole group WAS the PAC!
- On **January 27, we will have the large, bi-state, public stakeholder meeting at Templins from 6:30 to 9 p.m..**

Action items:

- Jani will arrange for payment of the aquifer atlas. She is waiting for payment information from the city of Spokane and Aquifer Joint Board.
- Jani will arrange for payment of room and hot beverages for the Jan. 27 meeting. She is waiting for the invoice/contract from Templins.
- Guy Gregory will discuss with the PTLT who will speak on what subjects at both the Nov. 9 meeting and the large public meeting on Jan. 27. Jani and Guy will try to put together a draft agenda for the 27th ASAP to send out for review.
- Jani will distribute the work plan (scope-of-work?) to the PAC when ready.
- Jani will write the copy for an ad for the Inlander and get costs and have it designed ASAP for review to be printed in early January. The copy will be based on a PTLT update.

Jani Gilbert

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