



July 19th Meeting Summary For the Rathdrum Prairie Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Advisory Committee

On July 19, 2010, the Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Advisory Committee met in the Community Room in the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. The objectives of this meeting were to

1. Review and revise the Draft CAMP
2. Learn about the climate change study
3. Develop a public participation plan
4. Review the schedule to complete the CAMP

List of Participants

Bruce Cyr	Allen Isaacson	Michael Neher
Andy Dunau	Paul Klatt	Dale Peck for Chris Beck
Mike Galante	Dave Lamb for Phil Cernera	Ron Wilson
Paul Glader for Mike Clary	Alan Miller	Ken Windram
Bruce Howard	Jonathan Mueller	

Welcome and Introduction

Matt McKinney began the meeting with a welcome and introductions of the Advisory Committee and members of the public, specifically introducing two people who are new to the Advisory Committee: Dave Lamb has recently replaced Jamie Davis as Phil Cernera's alternate and Paul Glader sat in on this meeting for Mike Clary.

First Public Comment Period

Lynn Tominaga introduced himself as a representative of the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators. He went on to say that he has been a frequent observer of this process. He asked that the Advisory Committee incorporate some kind of adaptive management element into the recommendations that the Advisory Committee will send to IWRB. Lynn suggested that the Advisory Committee base recommendations on optimum use of the water and economic benefit, and he said that those two items will drive everything. Lynn also suggested that the Advisory Committee consider preventing conflict through the Reasonably Anticipated Future Needs water rights mechanism, which requires a planning horizon and some planning or coordination.

Lynn emphasized the long-term goal for mitigating potential future issues with water use. He said if you mitigate for the state of Washington as one of your long term policy, it removes the issue of the state of Washington comes in and sues Idaho on, for example, water quality,

Lynn provided a document for the Committee to reference. This document can be found on the IDWR website in the documents section.

Lynn said that policy needs to be broad enough to take in all of the issues involved, but not so broad as to exclude some of the relevant details.

Jennifer Ekstrom wanted to make sure everyone knows about the Flagstone Meadows development proposal meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, July 20 and 21, at the Sandpoint Charter School. The proposed development extends over the northern end of the aquifer.

Alan Miller attended the Summer Water Law and Resource Issues Seminar sponsored by the Idaho Water Users Association. Alan was asked to represent the Rathdrum Prairie CAMP on a panel, which was comprised of members from each of the Idaho CAMP's. During the seminar, someone from the University of New Mexico presented on water law and suggested that it is legal for another state to appropriate from another state. The state being appropriated from cannot prevent but can put restrictions on that appropriation. Alan suggested that the Committee consider having this individual present more detail to the Committee.

Paul Klatt referenced Lynn's comment on adaptive management and pointed out that the challenge of this process is to deal with the issues that are beyond the Committee's control and fluid in nature.

Review and Revise the Draft CAMP

Introduction and general framework for discussion

During the interim between meetings, the Facilitation Team compiled the work completed to date and created a single document, or draft CAMP, for the Advisory Committee to reference. The Advisory Committee discussed the draft CAMP with the following tasks in mind:

1. Compare what we have to
 - a. The four camps goals and
 - b. The water demand study
2. Identify what is missing
 - a. Over-arching vision
 - b. Implementation Study
3. Discuss for each Chapter
 - a. Format
 - b. Level of detail
 - c. Recommendation
 - d. Maps and graphics
 - e. Citations
4. Throughout this conversation:
 - a. Think about the audience
 - b. Seek agreement on concepts

- c. Don't get bogged down "in the weeds" with wordsmithing (though words matter and language matters – to the degree to which we need certain words to express certain issues, we will go there).

Audience

The Advisory Committee discussed how to write for the specific audience for the CAMP. The Committee agreed that the Board has assembled the group, and the Board is the most likely audience; to go more broadly and write for each of the groups and organizations and members of the public represented on the Committee will likely be cause for extreme wordsmithing.

After agreeing that the primary audience of the CAMP is the IWRB, the Advisory Committee continued the discussion by focusing on the question of who is going to implement the CAMP. Helen reminded the Committee that this is the Board's document. This becomes part of the State Water Plan. The Board will need to approve it, and the Legislature will need to approve it.

The Committee discussed certain criteria for writing for this audience:

1. Recommendations should be broad.
2. Recommendations should include the "why" as well as the "what."
3. Might have fewer recommendations.
4. Format should be similar to the ESPA to minimize confusion.

What's Missing?

The Advisory Committee determined that, at a minimum, the following elements are currently missing from the draft CAMP and should be added:

1. IWRB goals for the statewide CAMP program
2. An implementation section
3. Acronyms and key terms
4. Executive summary
5. Maps and illustrations
6. Citations, though the Committee would simply like to reference the documents used to develop various sections, not reference citations throughout the text.

General Comments

The Advisory Committee decided to organize several of the CAMP sections into a single section on background and a single section on recommendations, rather than having multiple sections for each of those topics. The upcoming draft CAMP will reflect the changes suggested by the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee also discussed having a vision statement to follow the model created by the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer CAMP. Two suggestions were given, which will be integrated in the next draft of the CAMP:

1. To provide a sustainable source of high-quality groundwater for current and future economic, social, and environmental vitality.
2. Sustain and enhance the economic and ecologic vitality provide by the exceptional quality and reliability of the Rathdrum Prairie Sensitive Resource Aquifer.

The Committee also decided to identify key points for each section, which will eventually be gathered into an executive summary. Several key points emerged during discussion on the background section:

1. The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer has an ample supply of water in Idaho to meet projected demands in Idaho until 2060.
2. While the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer quality is currently very good, a number of threats to water quality exist and are likely to increase.
3. The direct connection between ground and surface water in the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is a key consideration in avoiding future conflicts.
4. Climate change may increase uncertainty regarding the timing and quantity of surface water flows.
5. Future demand/population growth is expected to... (The Advisory Committee wanted to add a point that specifically addressed population growth, but time did not allow for the Committee to reach a conclusion to this point.)

Implementation

Helen was asked if the implementation committee established in the Eastern Snake Plain aquifer has been successful. She stated that it is working well. She explained that the Advisory Committee that developed the ESPA CAMP was asked if they would like to participate on the implementation committee. Most of that Advisory Committee elected to remain involved.

The Committee members had questions about funding for implementation of the ESPA CAMP. Funding is contributed by the State (40%) and by the stakeholders (60%). Who asks for funding for the programs? Requests come through IDWR, and the Board approached the legislature. Stakeholders also can approach the legislature with support for the request that emerges from the Board.

Lynn Tominaga pointed out that this group can make requests to members of the national legislature for funding, as well.

The Committee discussed how the ESPA has been crisis-driven and the Rathdrum has been more proactive.

The Committee would like to add an implementation section to the draft CAMP that borrows applicable language from the ESPA CAMP. It will include:

1. Adaptive Management
2. Funding
3. Implementation Committee
4. Performance Evaluation Criteria/Standards

Develop a Public Participation Plan

The CAMP process will include an informal public process before the Board initiates the more formal public comment hearings. This informal public process will occur before the Committee sends recommendations to the Board and will be followed by one more Advisory Committee meeting so members have the opportunity to respond to the comment.

The Advisory Committee discussed having an open house with a set time for presentation(s) from Advisory Committee members. The Advisory Committee will convene the informal public meeting, with assistance from the facilitation team. The general purpose of the public meeting will be to explain who we are, what we have produced and why, and what it means to the citizens in the region. The Advisory Committee did not set times for the meeting, but open house will likely begin in the afternoon and conclude in the late evening.

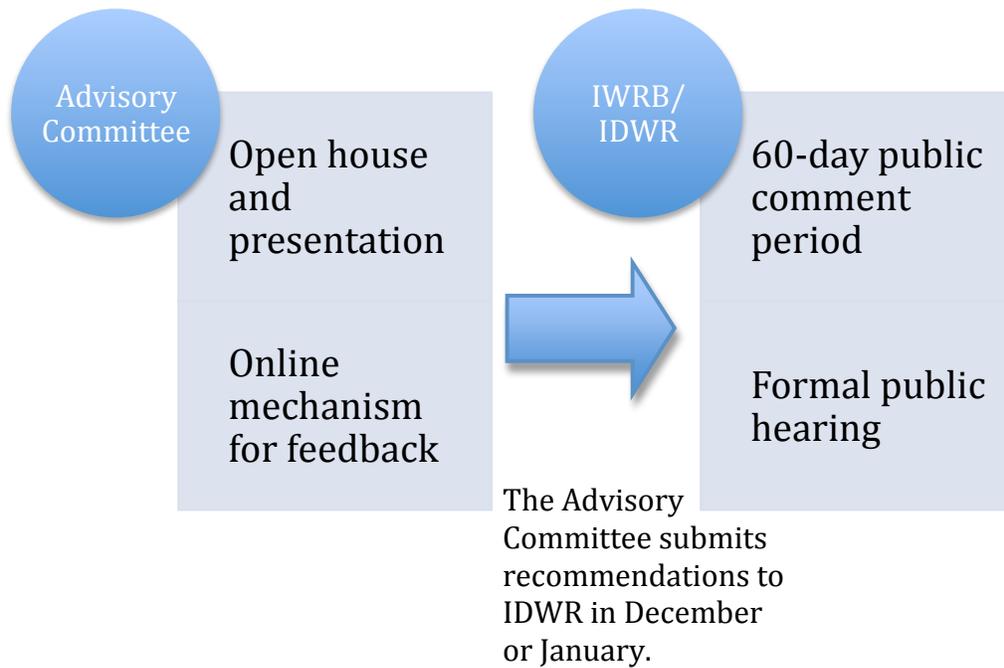
Some of the necessary components of the open house will include:

1. Posters
2. PowerPoint
3. Food
4. Press releases
5. A record of the meeting (advertisement, attendance, feedback, etc.)

Per suggestion from the Facilitation Team, the Committee agreed that the draft needs to be available to the public two weeks prior to the meeting. The Advisory Committee scheduled the open house/meeting for November 18th, which means the draft should be available to the public on November 4th.

The Advisory Committee may consider using an online mechanism to gather feedback. This mechanism might be shaped like a survey or a traditional comment form. Other ideas that emerged during this discussion included visiting with civic clubs and consulting constituent groups.

Figure 1 Public Involvement Framework



Based on the feedback that the Committee gets during the informal public process, the Committee may decide to develop a task force or committee to address a particular issue.

A more detailed description of the informal public process will be in the next version of the draft CAMP.

Learn About the Climate Change Study

Professor Sridhar from the College of Engineering at Boise State University delivered a presentation on the impacts of climate change on water availability over the next 50 years. The goal of the climate change study was to connect policy decisions with what we know or expect of climate variability. The study included a review of literature and development of three climate change scenarios. Sridhar was hired by IWRB to complete this study.

Along with very specific data describing precipitation and flow levels, Sridhar pointed out that climate change is a moving, or changing, target. It is likely that the Advisory Committee's, or other policy makers', confidence in the numbers will change, too. Decisions based on this data or on his analysis will need to evolve with that change.

The Advisory Committee asked that Sridhar consider the climate change assumptions that Christian Petrich incorporated into the Future Demand Study. The Advisory Committee would like confirmation that the Future Demand Study assumptions, even if they refer to different scales or time periods, are consistent with the observations Sridhar made in the more detailed Climate Change Study.

For more details on Sridhar's presentation, please see the Documents page in the Rathdrum Prairie CAMP section of the IDWR website.

Schedule to Complete the CAMP

August

Break from meeting

Refine draft CAMP based on discussion at the July meeting and more fully develop the sections on Water Quality and Conflict Management in consultation with Advisory Committee members that volunteered to help on each of these sections.

The Facilitation Team will modify the sections covered in this meeting (background, and the first part of recommendations that covers water supply.) The Facilitation Team will begin to create a template for the sections of the CAMP document.

September 17

Discuss recommendations for water quality and conflict management, along with the new section on Implementation and Adaptation.

Further refining of draft CAMP.

October 15

Review recommendations and prepare draft for distribution to the public.

November 18

Convene an open house and public meeting to seek input and advice on the draft CAMP from the public

December 10

Committee meets to consider and integrate public comment
(This is the last Committee meeting)

January

Submit final recommendations to Board

Board begins formal process of gathering public comment through hearings, etc.