

Working List of Questions for the Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Process

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Introduction

The Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Advisory Committee has developed a list of questions, both technical and nontechnical, regarding the Spokane Valley – Rathdrum Prairie aquifer. This “Working List of Questions” provides a mechanism for Advisory Committee members to:

- (a) Consider which questions need responses for the Advisory Committee to make its recommendations;
- (b) Assign relative priorities to questions for review by the Advisory Committee;
- (c) Consider what data are needed for answers to those questions, and
- (d) When data are received, make the needed determinations.

These questions arose in Advisory Committee meetings as well as in interviews conducted the Collaborative Processes facilitation team.

As Advisory Committee members, the Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Group, IDWR consultants (*i.e.*, Future Demand Study consultants from SPF), or others address questions, the Facilitation Team will update this document to include references to information that may assist in resolution of the question. Through Advisory Committee discussions, questions may be deleted from or added to this document.

QUESTION	ORIGIN	RESOURCE FOR INFORMATION	RESOLUTION NEEDED TO RECOMMEND ACTION?	NEEDED DATA FOUND?	THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED?
1. Questions concerning the Future Demand Study					
1.1 Will the study include consumptive use when discussing surface-ground interaction?	AC meeting 1/29				
1.2 What explains how more effluent without aquifer mining equals water loss in river? And where? Idaho or Washington or both. Facilitator comment: do we have a common understanding of the term “mining”? Is this term being used differently among us?	AC meeting 1/29				
1.3 What kinds of consumption affect the river flow? Where?*	AC meeting 1/29				
1.4 Will the classes of withdrawal be defined?*	AC meeting 1/29				
1.5 Identify the difference between what is being pumped and what is being consumed.*	AC meeting 1/29				
1.6 How much of the mining of the river is contributed by Idaho and how much by	AC meeting 1/29	Spokane County study?			

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Washington? *					
1.7 Will the Future Demand numbers be able to fit with the USGS Hydrological model?	AC meeting 1/29				
1.8 Is supply steady or volatile for the next 50 years?	AC meeting 1/29				
1.9 What's the difference in reuse instead of directly depositing in river? In other words, what is the effect of reusing water as compared with placing effluent directly into the river? Does reuse in Idaho really have a realizable benefit for Idaho or Washington?	AC meeting 1/29				
1.10 How does upstream augmentation translate to downstream benefits? What do we know about how upstream augmentation would translate to a benefit? Is there a situation akin to "futile call?"	AC meeting 1/29				

2. Basic Facts					
2.1 How much water is currently allocated and/or used per sector (agriculture, domestic, commercial, etc)?*	Assessment				
2.2 How much water is provided by whom and to what end?*					
2.3 How can the relationship between surface and groundwater in the basin, determined by the USGS model, be better communicated to the general public?	Assessment				
2.4 How many septic systems exist within the aquifer boundary? Within the aquifer watershed?	AC member	Panhandle Health District/ Idaho municipalities/ Spokane Regional Health District			
2.5 How many large soil absorption systems exist within the aquifer boundary? Within the aquifer watershed?	AC member	Panhandle Health District/ Idaho municipalities/ Washington DOH			
2.6 What is the status of sere systems at Faragut State Park? Capacity (gallons per day)? Last inspection? Monitoring results? Frequency of inspection?		Panhandle Health District			
2.7 What is the status of the sewer system at Silverwood? Capacity (gallons per day)? Last inspection? Monitoring results? Frequency of inspection?		Panhandle Health District			
2.8 What is the number of abandoned wells within the aquifer boundary? Within the aquifer watershed? What is the estimation		IDWR/ Washington DOE			

of the number of unknown abandoned wells?					
3. Population Growth and Development					
3.1 What is the most likely several scenarios in terms of population growth and development in the region?	Assessment				
3.2 Under various scenarios, how much water will be needed to meet future demands (domestic, commercial and industrial, agriculture, recreation, and environment)? Note: varying scenarios may include conservation, water use restrictions, limits on transfers off of the aquifer, limits on the “service area” of the aquifer.	Assessment				
3.3 What is the carrying capacity of the basin? That is, how many people can the basin support in a sustainable way given existing water supplies and other constraints (such as wastewater treatment and disposal and the desire to not “mine” the aquifer)? How is this affected the varying water use scenarios?	Assessment and email from AC member				
3.4 How far off the aquifer should we convey water? Worley, Airway Heights? Cheney? Communities further away? What is the agreed upon service area?	Email from AC member				

3.5 What percentage of new construction will be high-density construction? What impact does this have on water demand?	RPAC meeting #3				
4. Aquifer Hydrology and Management					
4.1 What is the recharge rate of the aquifer?	Assessment				
4.2 How and why does the recharge rate vary?	Assessment				
4.3 What are the most feasible options to recharge the aquifer? Is recharge what is needed?	Assessment and email				
4.4 Where does recharge occur? Does the recharge area extend all the way up the Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers or only as far as the Hayden Lake watershed?	Email from AC member				
4.5 What is the role of recharge and water savings? Is there a role for ASR?	AC meeting, assessment				
4.6 What is known concerning the cause(s) of declining flow in the Spokane River?	Assessment				
4.7 What is the role of water conservation in the future of the aquifer? Where and how? How can voluntary incentive based conservation efforts be best undertaken? Can conservation really be accomplished through voluntary means? Is there an	Email from AC member, Assessment				

incorrect attitude in Idaho that water supplies are unlimited?					
4.8 Should an public educational program be developed regarding water use and this aquifer?	Assessment				
4.9 Should this group consider the use of fees for water withdrawal? Limits on withdrawals?	Assessment				
4.10 In that the AVISTA license has been recently resolved, is there any need to consider that matter or may it be taken as a "given?"	Email from Committee member				
4.11 Can reused or water or aquifer water be used for the purpose of plant/facility whose discharge is steam or evaporation resulting in a net loss to the aquifer? Does this group at some point want to make a recommendation about whether this is good, bad, or indifferent?	RPAC meeting #3				
4.12 Avista is putting 600 CFS over the dam. 950 CFS is needed at the state line. 850 CFS is needed at the gauge in downtown Spokane. Where does (or will) the 350 CFS between the dam and the state line come from? What are the regulatory contexts for each of those requirements?	RPAC meeting #3				
5. Water Rights					
5.1 What is the difference between the amount of water people have a legal right to use	Assessment and email				

and the amount of water actually used?	from AC member				
5.2 What is the meaning and likely use/effect of the City of Spokane inchoate water rights? What other rights are currently unused, and should some action be taken regarding those unused rights?	Assessment and email from AC member				
5.3 What is the status of Tribes reserved water rights negotiations and settlements? Where are the negotiations heading?	Assessment and email from AC member				
6. Water Quality					
6.1 What is the impact of heavy metal migration and contaminants of concern on the aquifer and river system?	Assessment				
6.2 What are the most feasible options to treat and dispose of wastewater in the basin? How much of a problem is wastewater discharge in terms of aquifer quantity? What impact does the discharge of treated wastewater really have on river/aquifer water quality? What is the proper role if any for land application?	Assessment				
6.3 What are the greatest threats to water quality? How are risks approached and managed?	Assessment				

6.4 What are the real implications and potential effects of TMDLs on this aquifer?	Assessment addendum				
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7. Land Use and Water					
7.1 What are the options to better integrate land and water decisions?	Assessment				
7.2 Is the Kootenai County Comprehensive Land Use Plan a vehicle for that goal?	Assessment				
8. Regional Cooperation					
8.1 What are the options to promote regional communication, cooperation, and joint management of a shared water resource?	Assessment				
8.2 How should Idaho best engaged and understand the interests of the State of Washington without compromising Idaho's sovereignty?	Assessment				
8.3 In what ways does Washington consider the interests and needs of Idaho?	Assessment				
8.4 What kinds of mechanisms are out there to manage bi-state resources? (a compact is just one example)	RPAC meeting #3				