

Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Advisory Committee
July 24, 2013
Meeting Notes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mike Galante
Dale Peck
Laura Laumatia
Jim Markley
Mike Neher
Allen Isaacson
Andy Dunau
Bruce Cyr
Ron Wilson
Ed Squires (representing Stimson Lumber Co., pending appointment)

IWRB & IDWR Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Cuddy
Morgan Case
Helen Harrington

Meeting Summary

Following introductions of the Advisory Committee (AC) and review of the agenda, Ed Squires introduced himself to the AC. Stimson Lumber Co. has requested Dr. Squires be appointed to replace the current representative, Hal Keever. The request is pending IWRB approval; the AC allowed Dr. Squires to participate as an AC member for the meeting.

The AC discussed the draft Funding Proposal Evaluation Protocol document and process. Key points raised were:

- Emphasis on the prioritization of objectives and action items must be demonstrated;
- Conservation plan needs to be developed;
- RAFN, a high priority for RP CAMP implementation, is also a high priority for the Association of Idaho Cities;
- Projects need to be positive and keep open to ideas;
- Water quantity strategies may have water quality impacts.

Paul Klatt provided a brief Aquifer Protection District (APD) update. He mentioned that the APD has funded the drilling of a monitoring well at Woodland Middle School. The well will be monitored for temperature, water levels. There may be additional funding needs for similar projects. IDWR and IDEQ will be monitoring the well.

The AC reviewed three requests for funding from the CAMP Implementation Fund. The AC's role is to make recommendations to the IWRB.

1. Dr. Dale Ralston, Ralston Hydrologic Services, presented a PowerPoint presentation about a proposed study entitled: *Evaluation of Alternative Ground-Water Pumping Schemes as an Approach to Mitigating Problems or Critical Low Flow in the Spokane River at Spokane, Washington*. The estimated cost of the study is \$70,000 and could be completed within one year of funding.

AC Recommendation: Recommend IWRB fund full \$70,000 study; obtain a detailed budget and resolve the maintenance and housing of the spreadsheet prior to providing funding. AC suggested that Dr. Ralston try to obtain matches from other entities, but because of the importance of the study, whether

matches were found or not, the IWRB should have the study completed. The AC suggested that the effort to find matching funds be documented, even if they were unsuccessful.

2. Mr. Corey Bryant, Upper Columbia Resource Conservation and Development, made a presentation about a project entitled *Rathdrum/Spokane Aquifer Technology Project*. The proposed project is a 3-year project to install Agrimet stations to use with smart sensors. The project staff would work with irrigation districts with an ultimate goal of transferring the information to residential users. This funding request is for \$40,000 to support a portion of the first year's work. Total annual cost is \$70,000 with the remaining costs covered through a USBOR grant and additional in-kind matches.

AC Recommendation: Recommend IWRB fund \$20,000 for one year.

3. Dr. Mark Solomon, Idaho Water Resource Research Institute, presented a PowerPoint presentation about a project entitled *Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Water Level Water Quality Response Model*. This is a 2-year project, at a total cost of \$291,000.

AC Recommendation: Did not recommend funding this project.

AC recommended that the IWRB make funds available to assist Helen in development an RFP for future funding requests. The AC directed that a framework be established for requesting funds to ensure there is a schedule for solicitation for proposals and a Request for Proposals document be prepared which clearly describes the projects and studies which are being solicited to meet the priorities for implementing the RP CAMP.

The AC requested that the development of the RFP be a group effort which will require monthly meetings (probably September, October, and November) with a target of having the RFP ready for issuance in early 2014.

Helen discussed a few miscellaneous items:

1. Ken Neeley is investigating additional work on the thermal ground water modeling project and will have a cost estimate at some time in the future.

2. Weather stations currently maintained and operated by Dr. Mike Barber, WSU, are being evaluated for continued operation. Dr. Barber is leaving WSU and has requested Idaho and Washington take over the operation. Washington is taking over the stations in Washington; operation of the two stations in Idaho is pending a commitment. Ken Neeley is awaiting the data to determine the value of operating the stations.

3. A discussion with Dr. Christian Petrich, consultant who completed the RP CAMP Future Demand Study, resulted in discussion about options to an updated study. Dr. Petrich suggested that the initial study discussed predicted future demand based on values and behaviors which might occur. Rather than update the study, it might be useful to compare what has occurred since the initial study and evaluate how the activities and behaviors have occurred. He also suggested that an annual summary of water use and trends, similar to the annual reports prepared by the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee, might also be useful.

The next AC meeting will be scheduled, probably late September, to begin working on a Funding Proposal Solicitation Request for Proposals (RFP).

Summary prepared by Helen Harrington, 7/26/2013