

SPOKANE AQUIFER JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2013

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors of the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) met in Regular Session at Spokane County Water District No. 3, 1225 N. Yardley Street, Spokane, Washington 99212. President Ty Wick was in attendance. A total of 17 attended the meeting; including 12 SAJB voting representatives, no non-voting member, Program Manager Hanson and four guests. The sign-in sheet of SAJB members and guests present is available upon request.

Consideration of Regular Meeting Minutes

President Wick called for any additions, corrections or deletions to the Minutes of September 26, 2013. Hearing none the Minutes were approved as submitted.

2) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

President Ty Wick reported for the Treasurer.

SAJB Administration Funds

The SAJB checking balance for September is \$4,059.86

SAJB Wellhead Implementation Plan (WIP) Funds

The WIP checking balance is \$48,860.67. Spokane County Investment Pool (Implementation) balance is \$57,728.21.

Administration and WIP Bill Summary for October

President Wick presented the Bill Payment Summary for the month of October 2013.

The October Bill Payment Summary totaled \$13,414.38. The October summary detailed SAJB Administration bills of \$00.00 and Wellhead Implementation Bills of \$10,075.00. The Program Leader Consulting Services including mileage and reimbursements for the month of October amounted to \$3,332.87.

Those present reviewed the summary. Doug Babin moved to approve the Bill Payment Summary as presented, Bruce Davidson seconded the motion. President Wick called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3) OLD BUSINESS

Wellhead Regulatory Process and Wellhead Protection – Doug Greenlund requested that water purveyors, with prospective new well locations provide that information to him or Lloyd Brewer so that they may be documented for protective purposes in the MicroFEM groundwater flow model.

Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC) –President Wick reported that IWAC met on October 8th and Mike Hermanson presented the Spokane County Water Demand model and updated forecast. Idaho purveyors expressed interest in updating the Idaho water demand forecast to match the parameters Mike described in the Spokane County model. Idaho will be looking for funding to complete an update. The Spokane County Water Demand Forecast model presentation is available on the SAJB website at www.spokaneaquifer.org. IWAC will reimburse SAJB for one half of Program Manager Hanson's facilitation time. An invoice will be generated and sent to the IWAC Treasurer, Alan Miller. The next meeting will be November 12, 2012 1:30 pm at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District.

Aquifer Atlas Update – Reanette Boese reported that Aquifer Atlas update surveys were received and a planning meeting is set for November 13, 2013, 2:00 pm at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning is welcome to attend.

ID & WA Combined Service Area Map - Searchable Google Earth. Idaho water purveyor boundaries need to be finalized and added to the Spokane County Water purveyor service area map. Tonilee will follow-up with the Idaho Districts so the work can be finalized in the 2013 fiscal year.

4) NEW BUSINESS

SAJB Groundwater Model vs. USGS Groundwater model – President Wick reported that Ecology is preparing to proceed, in 2014, with in-stream flow rulemaking on the Spokane River. It is said that existing water rights will not be affected but future and unused water rights could be impacted. Adjudication continues to be discussed for the Spokane area and would require an accounting for water use and projected growth. Mitigation ideas discussed included leak management, banking, recharge, reclaimed water options, and conservation.

Idaho's Rathdrum Prairie Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) recommended funding of the Dale Ralston proposal and IDWR approved \$70,000 to proceed with the study. Ralston, using the 2007 USGS groundwater model, will study the impact on the Spokane River of moving pumping away from the river during low flows. This study will evaluate hypothetical concepts for moving pumping, rather than taking into account information about specific wells and water providers. Ralston was encouraged to use the SAJB's MicroFEM model which has a finer geographic and vertical resolution. Ralston intends to proceed with his work using the USGS model. The Ralston proposal does not address the cost of moving a well away from the river nor finding new locations for well sites in a highly developed region.

John Porcello, a groundwater hydrologist with GSI Water Solutions who developed the 2012 version of the City of Spokane /SAJB MicroFEM Groundwater Flow model, was invited to present a possible parallel study that would evaluate the impact of

moving pumping away from the river. The new SAJB study would use seasonal information rather than the yearly average that is currently programmed into the MicroFEM model. The model provides a good representation of the limited depth from which wells pump from the aquifer, whereas the USGS model simulates pumping as if it occurs from the entire thickness and depth of the aquifer at any given location. The USGS model also uses a grid with cells that are one-quarter mile in size, compared with the fine-resolution spacing of the MicroFEM model at all known production wells.

The question under consideration is, "Should SAJB be proactive in conducting this parallel study with an opportunity to test reduced pumping from wells near the river in 2014?" Or should SAJB wait to see what the Ralston study finds and then react? Members present expressed an interest in being proactive; but need to know what the study would cost, how it would be funded and indicated that a special assessment would likely not be approved by their respective governing boards.

The impact of water releases from Post Falls Dam was discussed as an important factor on river flows, which is not being addressed by the Ralston study.

John Porcello also told the attendees that given the upcoming in-stream flow rulemaking and possible adjudication, he has begun wondering if a thorough assessment of the aquifer's and river's historical hydrology have ever been compiled, showing the changes in the system from the early years of settlement all the way to present-day conditions. John said that he had never run across this type of analysis during the years he's been involved with constructing the MicroFEM model (as early as 1994). John said that he has done this kind of analysis of historical changes in groundwater budgets and river flows in a basin in California, using data provided by the local water purveyors and USGS data sources. John said that the analysis in that basin showed how the aquifer had shown no long-term water level declines as the basin shifted from predominantly agricultural to predominantly urban. Additionally, the basin showed an increase in streamflows as agricultural water use decreased over time and urbanization and importation of water progressed. John proposed a similar historic analysis study for the Spokane area using existing USGS and local water provider / agency data sources. Stream gauge data is available from the 1900s. The study would gather and analyze available information and develop quantitative plots of data on a monthly and/or annual basis, including precipitation, surface water and groundwater use, agricultural growth prior to the 1950s/1960s, surface water conversion to groundwater at that time, and the later decline in agriculture and increase in urbanization. IWAC may want to be involved in the study of historic regional water use. John will prepare a scope of work and budget.

Meeting Dates for November and December 2013 - Members discussed and agreed to a revised meeting schedule adjusted for the holidays. The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11/20/2013, and the December meeting will be held on Thursday, 12/19/13. Meetings will be held at Spokane County Water District No. 3.

Toys for Tots - Donations in Memory of Josie Freier – SAJB members are encouraged to make personal donations of toys to any of the Spokane Valley Fire Stations in memory of Rick Freier's daughter. Rick is a handler of Maco, the accelerant sniffing dog, and has been a liaison between SAJB and the Spokane Valley Fire Department. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Rick and his family for their loss.

2014 Draft WIP Budget – A draft 2014 Wellhead Implementation Budget was presented for discussion. The 2014 budget is based on projected income of \$134,350.00 and savings of \$57,728.21 from the Spokane County Pool for a total of \$192,078.21. Maintaining a reserve fund of \$42,000 leaves an available budget of \$150,000. In addition there could be an estimated \$20,000 in retained earnings which has not yet been included. 2014 proposed new or increased budget items were discussed, including:

- \$45,000 KSPS would continue all of the current services and increase the "Aquifer in a Cup Workshops" from 50 to 60.
- \$5,000 West Valley Outdoor Learning Center proposed maintaining the aquifer models and elementary lessons, and teaching a high school "Back Pack" lesson on managing personal wastes.
- \$28,050 Emerald Outdoor Advertising would display 4 existing Aqua Duck Billboards on a rotating basis throughout most of the year. In addition a new Aqua Duck billboard would be created promoting small businesses that have earned the EnviroStars certified logo for managing hazardous waste.

WIP Implementation items that would continue at current funding include:

- \$43,000 Program Manager
- \$10,000 Proactive Business Assistance – EnviroStars
- \$11,200 Potential Contaminant Source Inventory – 2014 is a map/letter year
- \$5,500 MISC - Aqua Duck actor, cleaning, 8 event registration fees, donations, subscriptions, website technical costs

WELLHEAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – Program Manager Tonilee Hanson reviewed the following:

2009-2012 State Audit – The State Auditor's office completed the audit of SAJB for the years 2009-2012. An official letter was received and copies given to the officers. The State Auditor will be holding training classes in the spring that may help in understanding how to fill out the required on-line filing of forms.

2013 Education and Awareness Events – Some events involved multiple days and Aqua Duck appeared at most of the school and community events.

11 - School Events: Otis Community School, Nine Mile Falls Elementary, Sunrise Elementary Science, Holmes Elementary Science Night, Longfellow Elementary Science Night, Progress Elementary, University Elementary Science Showcase, Mullan Road Science Night, Greenacres Elementary, Mead 5th Gr. Environmental Days (8 full days 500 students and 60 adults), and Silverwood Math & Science Days.

50 KSPS Aquifer in a Cup Workshops were conducted at private and public schools across Spokane County.

18 - Community Events: Earth Day, St. Aloysius Caring for Creation Weekend, Finch Arboretum - Arbor Day, Jr. Lilac Parade, SYEC at SCC, Parade of Paws, North East Community Fundraiser, Hillyard Heritage Festival, Kids Day, Mutt Strut - Liberty Lake, Girl Scout Camp - Liberty Lake, Transitions Back to School Event, Millwood Daze, Interstate Fair (10 days), Valley Fest, Spokane River Cleanup, Touch A Truck, and Bark for Life.

4 - Presentations: Spokane River Forum Conference, Spokane Connect - Water District Personnel, Spokane Dental Society Conference, and Gonzaga University Law School - Clean Water Act.

EnviroStars Recruitment Video – The State EnviroStars Co-op developed a 4 minute recruitment video. The video was funded by the department of Ecology but the videographer was not able to travel to get live shots of Spokane businesses. PM Hanson provided photos and video to the videographer. Four of our 68 certified businesses and the Spokane River were featured in the video. A nearly final draft was shown at the meeting. When the final video cut is completed it will be added to the SAJB, Spokane EnviroStars and sponsoring agency websites. A complete list of certified businesses was provided as a handout.

Website Statistics for www.Spokaneaquifer.org Website statistics for September 15 through October 14, 2013, documented 4,148 visits which is the highest number of visits to date with 3,972 unique visitors. Those visitors looked at 9,631 pages. The only previous month to exceed the number of page views was April 2013 with 10,080 views. The bounce rate continues to be high which may mean that people find what they want easily but most likely there is another explanation. Work will continue to understand how our website is being used and what can be done to meet the needs of various audiences.

Small Business Proactive Assistance - The Spokane River Forum was awarded a two year, EPA Public Participation Grant (PPG) to create an on-line Hazardous Waste directory that focuses on Eastern Washington waste regulations, disposal vendors and technical assistance opportunities. A planning Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2013 at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the Spokane County Water Resources Center. 1004 N. Freya Road, Spokane, WA 99202.

5) OPEN FORUM –

6) GUEST –

7) ADJOURN

There being no further business this 24th day of October, 2013, President Wick adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

President Ty Wick

Secretary Todd Henry