

TO: SVRPA Project Team

FROM: Guy J. Gregory

SUBJECT: Management Committee Meeting, January 26, 2006

The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Project Management Team (SVRPA MAC) met the afternoon of January 26, 2006 in Spokane, WA. Attendees include Bob Haynes and Hal Anderson from IDWR, Hal by phone; Gary Turney (USGS/Tacoma); Steve Lipscomb (USGS/Boise); Rene-Marc Mangin (Ecology/Spokane). Guests were Jennifer Parker (USEPA Region X), Helen Harrington (IDWR, PTLT member) and Guy Gregory (Ecology, PTLT Member)

The agenda is generally as follows.

1. Status of all Study Elements (not results, we'll get that at the PAC meeting) - are we on time, does everyone have the resources (people and money), are there any technical problems?

Guy and Helen indicated that study elements are on time, with the exception of drilling and geophysical tasks. Those tasks have been delayed. Drilling is delayed because the additional requirements required of NGO's (including the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce) in the appropriations process have taken several months longer than initially anticipated. Their application is now complete, and appropriation should proceed, but is out of the general control of Region X. Geophysics is delayed because Ken Sprenke is delayed in production of his report. Also of note is that the Modeling Team is working well together and making very good progress by all accounts.

2. Financial Status - Is everyone on budget? Does the PTLT have plans yet for the \$300K from EPA in FY06?

Budget status is good. The PTLT has not yet applied for the \$300 K appropriation, retaining that option for data gaps or post-model completion activity. However, it will take about 2-3 months to get access to those grant funds.

3. Outreach - How is the community reacting to the study efforts? Any problems or issues? Any surprises we should anticipate at the PAC meeting?

Public outreach efforts have slowed somewhat, but in general are favorable. The upcoming PAC meeting has received a lot of interest and radio publicity.

4. Consider proposal by PTLT to disband the Peer Review Team

The PTLT proposal is not a proposal to eliminate peer review. Rather, it is a proposal to clarify MOU language around the structure and function of peer review, acknowledging that each agency intended to peer review the final document. The MAC generally

concurrred with the approach. Now, formal peer review will be conducted concurrently and independently by each agency rather than through a formal Peer Review Team. Peer review will include reviews from each of the three partners (Ecology, IDWR, USGS). EPA often reviews models produced by grant funds. All believed engagement early with EPA was desirable.

This proposal was brought about largely because of the success of the multi-agency Modeling Team, which was not envisioned when the MOU was originally signed.

5. Consider proposal by the PTLT to conduct synoptic ground-water measurement in April .

The PTLT clarified this proposal was in fact existing work. The main controversy is in the proposal to conduct a seepage run. All indicated some concern over worker safety, but also a discussion of whether such an effort would produce data of acceptable precision. Guy agreed to follow up with local field staff to inquire as to the ability of a limited seepage run to produce results. Additionally, the MAC inquired as to the product of the spring synoptic, the PTLT felt generally a data summary available to the modeling team was acceptable and all that was needed. No stand alone publication would be produced, nor would these data need to be incorporated into the other planned reports. The MAC concurrred.

6. Consider a proposal by the PTLT to extend the publication date of the Conceptual Model report

The MAC understands delay in drilling and geophysics, as well as hydraulic work this spring, may delay final products. Each MAC member indicated some concern over increases or other uncertainty on scope. The MAC agreed that all data for integration into the model and reports, if submitted by September 30, 2006, will be included in the final reports, providing an estimated completion date of spring, 2007.