

**GRANDVIEW CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
JUNE 22, 2010**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Pam Horner called the study session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present were: Mayor Pro Tem Horner and Councilmembers Mike Bren, Diana Jennings, Jesse Palacios, Javier Rodriguez and Joan Souders. Mayor Norm Childress and Councilmembers Bill Moore and Mike Bren were absent.

Staff present were: Interim City Administrator Cus Arteaga, City Attorney Jack Maxwell, City Treasurer John Myers and City Clerk Anita Palacios.

**2. WATER IN THE YAKIMA BASIN**

Jim Milton, Director of the Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency made a presentation regarding Water in the Yakima Basin.

Background:

- 1855 U.S. Treaty with Yakama Nation
  - Fishing Rights
  - 1905 USBR Withdrawal of Water
  - Yakima Project (YTID, SVID, Roza ID, KRD, City of Yakima, etc.)
- 1945 Consent Decree
  - Total water supply available and management of pro-ratable and non-pro-ratable
  - 1974 Boldt Decision (Columbia River)
  - Fish & Water for fish (Boldt II)
  - 1980 Quackenbush Decision (Yakima River)
  - USBR ordered to release water for fish redds
  - 1977 Yakima surface water adjudication

1998 Groundwater Lawsuit:

- USBR & Yakama Nation raised issue w/Ecology decision
  - Well permits on Rattlesnake Ridge
  - Groundwater in continuity with surface water and
  - Diminishes water for fish
- Settlement
  - Yakama Nation/Ecology/Reclamation
  - Three Party Agreement 1998
- Groundwater Moratorium/Reclamation Withdrawal
- Groundwater Study
  - USGS (Lead)
  - 10 year/\$8 million
  - Near completion

Yakima Basin Water Crisis:

- Over appropriated basin:

- 1905 USBR surface water withdrawal
- Post 1905 surface water and groundwater water rights, groundwater claims
- Droughts: 1973, 1977, 1979, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994\*, 2001\*, 2004  
\*Pro-rationing of water supply has been as low as 35%
- Future: In-stream flows for fish restoration
- Future Growth: Will water be available?
  - Industrial/Municipal/Rural (Exempt Wells)
- Global climate change:
  - Need to be flexible to address possible impacts

He explained the following framework for understanding connections between surface water and groundwater in the Yakima Basin.

Hydrogeology:

- Basin-fill deposits
- Saddle Mountains unit
- Mabton interbed
- Wanapum unit
- Vantage interbed
- Grande Ronde unit
- Bedrock

The ability of sediments and rocks to store and transmit groundwater (their hydraulic characteristics) determined how a groundwater-flow system functions. Knowledge of the hydraulic characteristics also was necessary to evaluate how the flow system responds to stresses such as pumpage.

Groundwater occurring in the hydrogeologic units was derived from:

- Rainfall
  - Mostly in upland bedrock areas
- Snowmelt
  - Provides most river flow during summer months
  - Irrigation, starting in the late 1800's
  - Derived from surface water, so not new water

Predevelopment conditions:

- rainfall enters ground and flows to streams
- all water entering ground is eventually discharged to surface

Pumped conditions:

- a single well installed between points of recharge and discharge intercepts some groundwater
- water discharge to streams is reduced

Heavily pumped conditions:

- larger amounts of pumping withdraw more water from the aquifer
- in addition to reducing discharge to streams, pumping may induce direct losses from streams

USGS groundwater study results:

- Alluvial aquifers in continuity with Yakima River
- Basalt aquifers in continuity with Yakima River to lesser extent, longer impact time
- Additional study—Upper Kittitas Basin

New paradigm for water management:

- Conjunctive Water Management
  - Consideration should be given to timing and to connectivity of groundwater to surface water

Develop new strategy for groundwater management:

- Await final USGS results
- Review technical results of USGS study
- Develop alternative management strategies
- Obtain basin-wide agreement/approval
  - Yakama Nation
  - Federal Government
  - State and Local Government/Citizens (Water Protection Act)
- Adopt and implement strategy

YBWRA Priorities

Identify problems correctly:

- Ag water supply shortage during drought
- Water for fish/habitat restoration
- Address post-1905 water rights
- Consider impact from climate change
- Water for growth (for next 50 years)
  - Municipal
  - Industrial
  - Rural exempt wells

Solutions:

- Focus on “new” water supply
  - Storage
  - Water reallocation
  - Conservation
  - Aquifer storage and recovery
  - Changes in use

YRBWEP Workgroup:

Preliminary Integrated Water Resources Management Plan, December 2009

1. Programs and policies to reduce water demand
2. Additional water supply
3. Groundwater storage
4. Market based reallocation of water rights
5. Modification to existing operations
6. Fish passage
7. Habitat enhancement

Benefits:

- More stable water supply and economy
- Economic growth
- Restored environment/habitat
- Flexible system to manage uncertainty
  - Climate change/global warming
- Quality of life
  - Restored fisheries
  - Increased recreational opportunities

How to become involved?

- Join the Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency (YBWRA) Lead Agency (Counties, Cities & Irrigation Districts)
  - Be a part of the Water Management Team providing leadership in the Yakima Basin
- Join the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) formerly Planning Unit (All Others)
  - Provide input to the policies on how groundwater will be managed in the Yakima Basin in the years ahead

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The study session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Mayor Pro Tem Pam Horner

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Anita Palacios, City Clerk