

Pavant Valley Groundwater Meeting

The meeting was held February 27, 1992, in Fillmore, Utah at 6:30 p.m. Bob Morgan called the meeting to order. He then introduced the members of his staff and gave an overview of the meetings agenda. He invited the audience to participate in the meeting and welcomed any oral or written comments from the water users.

Kirk Forbush presented an overview of water rights for the Pavant Valley consisting of a review of the current State Engineer's policy for groundwater appropriation and change applications, a brief history of groundwater development and a summary of water rights now approved and their locations. Kirk reviewed the groundwater districts as outlined by the U.S.G.S. study and the rationale of having the districts delineate areas having common areas of recharge and areas of discharge. A summary of the water rights in the valley was then presented showing the status and flow rate associated with each type of right. There are 360 certificated rights for a total of 550 cfs, 270 Underground Water Claims for a total of 130 cfs, 55 approved applications for a total of 4 cfs and 60 unapproved applications for a total of 240 cfs. A map of the area was then presented showing the potential withdrawals within each section.

Jerry Olds discussed the technical aspects of the groundwater basin and summarized the information from the U.S.G.S. reports. The recharge pattern and groundwater movement within the basin was shown to be from the mountains to the east and south then moving out of the valley in a northwesterly direction. This has been changed slightly due to the groundwater development. West of Kanosh there now is a cone of depression that is bringing water from the west to the east. This is a major area of concern. Jerry then discussed the recharge to and discharge from the groundwater. The annual average recharge for the valley is approximately 70,000 acre-feet and 20,000 acre-feet of this comes from seepage out of streams and canals, 39,000 acre-feet comes from unconsumed irrigation water and 11,000 acre-feet comes from precipitation to the valley floor. The annual discharge from the groundwater basin is approximately 108,600 acre-feet. This means that there is an annual deficit of 38,000 acre-feet. The discharge is broken down as 13,600 acre-feet from springs or drains, 29,000 acre-feet from evapotranspiration and 64,000 acre-feet is pumped from wells.

A graph showing the record of groundwater removal from 1945 - 1990 was shown. This presented the increase of groundwater use through the 1950's and 1960's with the largest annual withdrawals being in the mid 1970's. Jerry then presented several graphs showing the water levels in some selected wells. Each of these wells showed a steady decline in their water levels up to 1983 - 1984. During these flood years the water levels rebounded rapidly but have since decreased.

The next issue discussed was the groundwater quality. A map of the areas was displayed showing the areas of different groundwater quality based on the amount of total dissolved solids. The areas of high concentration of withdrawals are generally along the edge of the good water quality areas. However, within the cone of depression west of Kanosh the poor quality of water in the western part of the valley is now moving to the east. This is affecting the quality of their water being withdrawn from this area.

The preliminary review of the Pavant Valley groundwater that has been completed has shown that the resource is presently experiencing over withdrawals. Jerry proposed that the State Engineer's office perform a complete study of the area in order to develop a groundwater management plan. In developing the plan, it would consider the annual rate of pumpage, water rights, determination of the optimum location for withdrawals, water quality and a review of the State Engineer's policy for new appropriations and change applications. During the near future the State Engineer is proposing to conduct a survey of the irrigated acreage and compare it to the water right acreage, an in depth analysis of the water rights and their potential annual withdrawal.

Bob Morgan then opened the floor up for comments and questions from the water users. Some of the questions, comments and concerns that Bob addressed are listed below:

Question: During the floods of 1983 and 1984 the flood waters from Corn Creek were diverted east of Kanosh. Could this be the cause of the cone of depression west of Kanosh?

Response: Bob said that is possible that this contributed to the cone of depression.

Question: Are there areas within the valley that did not show a decline in the water levels.

Response: Bob said the declines in the water levels were generally over the whole basin.

Comment: Power rates are going to increase 30% this year. This may reduce the amount of pumping due to economic concerns.

Question: Is there one aquifer in the basin or 3 or 4 aquifers?

Response: Bob said that it is his belief that there is one aquifer that varies geologically.

Question: If someone has not used their wells for several years, is the State Engineer going to seek them out and cause them to lose their water right or is he going to go after the people that have expanded their acreage?

Response: Bob explained that if a water right is abandoned for five years then the water right can be lost. However, due to a lack of man power the State Engineer's office cannot go out and search for them. He further explained that if he identified someone who has expanded their acreage then

action will be taken to correct this. Bob then explained that a water right is based both on flow and on acreage.

Question: Is the State Engineer going to require meters on all wells as has been done in the Milford area?

Response: Bob said that meters may be required.

Question: Is the regulation of the surface water as outlined in the Cox Decree going to remain the same.

Response: Bob responded yes to this question.

Question: If the surface water runoff is excessive during a year, can that water be diverted and used on separate land instead of being allowed to pond on farm land in the Flowell area?

Response: Bob said that he could not answer that question without further study.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attached is a list of those in attendance at the meeting. Division of Water Rights staff in attendance:

Robert Morgan
Jerry Olds
Kirk Forbush
Terry Monroe
Amy Smith

PAVANT VALLEY GROUNDWATER MEETING
ATTENDANCE LIST
February 27, 1992

Fred I. Christensen
Robert Christensen
Dan Jay Wade
Reed Robinson
William J. Tuttle
Jay Kenton Tuttle
Randy Coats
Gerald D. Coats
Chris Carling
Cloyd Day
Paul McBride
Bruce Beckstrand
Evan A. Beckstrand
Ned Harris
Shadrach Bradshaw
Dennis L. Bond
Vern H. Stewart
DeLynn V. Labrum
Glade Stevens
Wesley Stephenson
Mark W. Stephenson
Cal Stewart
Jack McBride
Earl Johnson
Mary Johnson
Pat Wood
Kim Anderson - High County Farm
Melvin Whitaker
Roman R. Rodriguez - High Country 2Farm
Boyd W. Stevens
Ron M. Stevens
Austin N. Lovell
J. M. Lovell
Maughan Christensen
Paul H. Christensen
Richard Wade
Jay Rogers

PAVANT VALLEY GROUNDWATER MEETING

NAME

Paul A. Christian
Robert Christensen
Dorothy Wade
Reed Robison
William J. Tuttle
Jay Kenton Tuttle
Randy Coats
Gerald Cloak
Chris Carling
Caryl Day
Paul Eric Brads
Bruce Bachstrom
Alan A. Bachstrom
Ned Davis
Shadrach Bradshaw
Dennis J. Bond
Ken H. Stewart
Dezmon V. Salas
Glade Stevens
Wesley S. Stephenson
Mark W. Stephenson
Cal Stewart
Jack McFute
Earl Johnson
Mary Johnson
Pat Wood
Kimi Anderson High County Farm
Mich Whitaker
Ramon A. Rodriguez High County Farm
Boyd A. Stevens
Ross M. Strom
Hester N. Lovell
J. B. Jull

Margie Christian
Paul H. Christensen
Richard Wash
Jay Rogers
Bob Morgan
Jerry Ows
Keri Forebush
Terry Monroe
Amy Smith