

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Paul R. Cleary, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F, April 18, 2003
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Consideration for Approval of Appointments to the Ground Water Advisory Committee

I. Issue Statement

The nine-member Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC) has three members whose terms expired on November 30, 2002. There is a vacancy created by the resignation of a fourth member whose term expires on November 30, 2004. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235, describes the process for soliciting candidates. Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the four positions.

II. Background

The Commission's rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 235, provide a process to identify possible GWAC candidates, prescribe categories of expertise that may be represented on GWAC, and allow appointments for up to three years. The rules result in expiration of three terms per year, thus staggering membership. Any mid-term vacancy is filled for the remainder of the term. Each year, staff seek Commission action on GWAC appointments and/or reappointments.

Currently, GWAC has three regular membership positions and one vacancy that must be filled. In order to comply with the statute establishing GWAC, a person who is active in the well construction industry must fill one of the positions. The other three positions may represent other ground-water related interests. Current GWAC membership is listed in the attachment.

The Department's search for new GWAC candidates included reviewing recommendations from individuals and Department staff, as well as determining whether current members wish to continue to serve. Additionally, staff sent notice to persons on the GWAC mailing list. The notice advised interested parties of the anticipated term expirations and mid-term vacancy, and asked that those wishing to be considered for a position on GWAC notify Department staff.

III. Discussion

A total of six individuals expressed interest in the available GWAC positions. The recommended candidates include three current members representing three ground water interests. Staff recommend reappointment of Jim Mack (well industry category); Malia Kupillas (hydrogeology category); and Nitin Joshi (local government category). Terms for these three members would begin immediately and end November 30, 2005. In addition, staff recommend appointment of Donald Rajnus to the vacancy in the ground water user category. That term would begin immediately and end on November 30, 2004.

Well Industry Category:

Jim Mack is a well constructor from Bandon. Mr. Mack has been a licensed well constructor in Oregon for 15 years and is a licensed monitoring well constructor. He is a member and past President of the Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA). Mr. Mack primarily constructs domestic-sized water supply wells, but also some monitoring wells and larger water supply wells. His participation on GWAC expands the geographic representation on the committee. Mr. Mack has excellent experience, he is a long-term member of OGWA, and his presence balances the geographic representation of GWAC.

Hydrogeology Category:

Malia Kupillas is a consulting hydrogeologist and President of Pacific Hydro-Geology Inc. of Mulino, Oregon. Ms. Kupillas has 16 years experience with ground water work and is a registered geologist, a certified water rights examiner (CWRE), and a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA). Her efforts include ground water research studies as well as development, protection, and remediation. She is also involved with assisting Marion County with its ground water ordinance. Ms. Kupillas has a strong technical background and interest in state ground water issues. She is currently Chair of GWAC.

Local Government Category:

Nitin Joshi has been the Water Resources Program Manager with the City of Salem for the last six months. Formerly, he was an Environmental Specialist with the City of Lebanon since 1995. His duties involve municipal concerns of wastewater, water supply, storm water, ground water, and solid waste. Mr. Joshi has worked with the following ground water issues: contamination clean-up; well field design; wellhead protection; and dry-well abandonment. Mr. Joshi has a wide breadth of experience.

Ground Water User Category:

Don Rajnus is a farmer from Malin in Klamath County. Mr. Rajnus is now semi-retired, having been a well irrigator for 40 years focusing on seed potatoes. He has served for 30 years on the Potato Committee of the Oregon Seed Certification Advisory Committee to the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Rajnus holds a degree in agricultural engineering. Staff recommend Mr. Rajnus' appointment based on the breadth of his experience and the interest that he has shown in protecting ground water quantity and quality.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

- 1) Reappoint Jim Mack (well industry), Malia Kupillas (hydrogeology) and Nitin Joshi (local government) to terms beginning immediately and expiring on 11/30/2005. In addition, appoint Don Rajnus (ground water user) to complete a term beginning immediately and expiring on 11/30/2004.
- 2) Appoint some other slate of candidates to GWAC for terms beginning immediately and expiring on 11/30/2005 (three candidates) and 11/30/2004 (one candidate).
- 3) Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments to GWAC which reflects a different set of interest categories and/or candidates.

V. Recommendation

The Director and staff recommend that the Commission follow Alternative 1 and appoint the proposed slate of candidates for the stated terms.

Attachment:
Current GWAC Membership

Donn Miller
March 10, 2003
503.378.8455 ext. 205

**OREGON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Barry Beyeler
Utilities/Nat. Res. Manager
PO Box 229
Boardman, OR 97818

Serving in Local Government Category
Term Expires 11/30/03

Ed Butts
1810 Lana Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category
Term Expires 11/30/03

Paul Christensen
Christensen Well Drilling
33132 Coleman Rd.
Eugene, OR 97408-9404

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category
Term Expires 11/30/04

David Graham
Environmental Mgmt Services, Inc
1150 Knutson, Ste. 4
Medford, OR 97504

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category
Term Expires 11/30/03

Nitin Joshi
City of Salem
555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Serving in Local Government Category, Vice-chair
Term Expires 11/30/02

Malia Kupillas
Pacific Hydrogeology Inc.
18477 S. Valley Vista Rd.
Mulino, OR 97042

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category, Chair
Term Expires 11/30/02

Gayle Killam
River Network
520 SW 6th Ave. #1130
Portland, OR 97204-1535

Serving in Environmental Category
Term Expires 11/30/04

Vacancy

Serving in Groundwater User Category
Term Expires 11/30/04

Jim Mack Sr.
Bandon Well & Septic Company
47530 Hwy 101
Bandon, OR 97411

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category
Term Expires 11/30/02