



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Barry Norris, Administrator  
Technical Services Division

**SUBJECT:** Water Resources Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item F, January 13, 2005

### **Commission 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, 2004. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 rules describe a process for soliciting candidates. Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the three positions.

#### **II. Background**

The Commission's Ground Water Advisory Committee is appointed and charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090. These duties include: (1) Advice on all matters relating to rules for the development, securing, use and protection of ground water; and the licensing and examination of well constructors; and (2) review of the proposed expenditure of Start Card Fee revenues. The Committee is to consist of nine members who represent a range of interests and expertise, with at least three of the members actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry.

The Commission's rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 235, provide a process to identify possible GWAC candidates, prescribe categories of expertise which 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 or reappointments.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three regular membership positions that must be filled. In order to comply with ORS 536.090, a person who is active in the well construction industry must fill one of the positions. The other two positions may represent other ground water related interests. Current GWAC membership is listed in the Attachment.

Recruitment for new GWAC candidates included reviewing recommendations from individuals and Department staff, as well as determining whether current members wish to continue to serve. Staff also solicited input from the Oregon Ground Water Association for the well construction industry position. Additionally, staff sent notice to individuals on the GWAC mailing list maintained by the Department. The notices advised interested parties of the committee vacancies and asked that those wishing to be considered for a position on GWAC notify staff. Staff received recommendations from Oregonians for Food and Shelter and Water for Life. A total of six candidates made the list for consideration in the ground water user category. The current GWAC members in the well industry and environmental categories expressed interest in continuing in their current positions.

### **III. Discussion**

A total of eight individuals expressed interest in filling the three vacant positions. The recommended candidates include two current members and one new appointment. The Department recommends appointment of Tim Smith (ground water user category), and reappointments of Paul Christensen (well industry category) and Marilyn Reeves (environmental category). Terms for these three members would begin immediately and end November 30, 2007.

#### **Ground Water User Category:**

Tim Smith is a cattle rancher from Harney County with an irrigated ranch near Burns. Mr. Smith is currently active in two other areas: geologic/environmental consulting and community involvement. Mr. Smith is a registered geologist in Oregon and President of TKS Consulting. His community activities include acting as Chair of the Harney County Watershed Council, member of the Board of the Harney County Health District, and Chair of the Harney County Small Grants Team for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Staff recommend Mr. Smith's appointment, from among an excellent group of candidates, based on his varied experience, his geographic representation, and endorsements.

#### **Well Industry Category:**

Paul Christiansen is a well constructor from Eugene. Mr. Christiansen has been a licensed well constructor in Oregon for more than 20 years and a licensed monitoring well constructor since 1990. He is a member of the Oregon Ground Water Association. Mr. Christiansen constructs domestic-size water supply wells, monitoring wells, and some larger diameter water supply wells. Staff recommend Mr. Christiansen's reappointment based on the breadth of his experience.

#### **Environmental Category:**

Ms. Reeves is a retired resident of rural Yamhill County and lives in the Amity Hills/Walnut Hill Ground Water Limited Area. She is involved with land use issues through the Friends of Yamhill County, an affiliate of 1000 Friends of Oregon. Ms. Reeves has served for eight years on the Building Codes Structural Committee for the state of Oregon as an at-large member. Staff recommend Ms. Reeves appointment to provide continued environmental representation on the committee.

#### **IV. Alternatives**

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Tim Smith (ground water user), and reappoint Paul Christensen (well industry) and Merilyn Reeves (environmental) to terms beginning immediately and expiring on November 30, 2007.
2. 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 recommended slate of candidates for the stated terms.

Attachment:  
Current GWAC Membership

Donn Miller  
503-986-0845



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

Barry Beyeler  
Comm. Development Director  
Boardman, OR

Serving in Local Government Category  
Term Expires 11/30/06

Paul Christensen  
Christensen Well Drilling  
Eugene, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Ind. Category, Vice-chair  
Term Expires 11/30/04

David Graham  
Environmental Mgmt Services, Inc  
Medford, OR

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category  
Term Expires 11/30/06

Nitin Joshi  
City of Salem  
Salem, OR

Serving in Local Government Category, Chair  
Term Expires 11/30/05

Malia Kupillas  
Pacific Hydrogeology Inc.  
Mulino, OR

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category  
Term Expires 11/30/05

Jim Mack Sr.  
Bandon Well & Septic Company  
Bandon, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category  
Term Expires 11/30/05

Don Rajnus  
Malin, OR

Serving in Groundwater User Category  
Term Expires 11/30/2004

Merilyn Reeves  
Amity, OR

Serving in Environmental Category  
Term Expires 11/30/2004

John Stadel  
Arrow Drilling Co.  
Newberg, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category  
Term Expires 11/30/2006

November, 2004