



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission
FROM: Acting Director Douglas Woodcock
SUBJECT: Agenda Item A, November 16, 2023
Water Resources Commission

Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Introduction

During this agenda item the Commission will be asked to consider four candidates for appointment to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC). This is an Action Item.

II. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Recommended Action

- 11.E - Develop Additional Groundwater Protections

III. Background

The Commission appoints a nine-member Groundwater Advisory Committee pursuant to ORS 536.090 to provide advice on all matters relating to: (1) rules for the development, securing, use, and protection of groundwater, and (2) licensing and examination of well constructors. The Committee is also charged with reviewing the proposed expenditures of start card fee revenue.

The Commission's rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 provide a process to identify GWAC candidates, prescribe a range of categories of expertise that may be represented on GWAC, and allow appointments for up to three years. The rules result in the expiration of three appointments each year, thus staggering membership. Any mid-term vacancy is filled for the remainder of the term. Each year, staff seeks Commission action on GWAC appointments. The Commission has directed that appointed members be limited to two terms (six years).

GWAC members represent a range of interests and expertise, including at least three members from the well drilling industry and the remainder representing interests in hydrogeology, irrigation, local government, Indian Tribes, environment, public health, industry, commerce, water project development, watershed enhancement, instream flow, agriculture, well pump installation, exempt ground water users, or any other category with a ground water interest (OAR 690-235-0005).

The current members of the committee are listed in the following table. The three expiring positions, and one resigned position, are highlighted. The Department thanks these Committee members for their service.

Name	City of Residence	Category Represented	Term
Marshall Gannett	Portland	Hydrogeologist	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2023
Phil Brown	Beavercreek	Hydrogeologist	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024
Brandon Brown	Umatilla	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2025
Floyd Sippel	Salem	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2023
Ken Bentz	Crane	Groundwater Irrigator	1st Term Expires 11/30/2025
Kenneth Masten	Bonanza	Groundwater Irrigator	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024
Richard Smith	Hillsboro	Domestic Well Owner	1st Term Expires 11/30/2023
Susan Baker	Medford	Local Government	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2025
Trent Castner	Portland	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024

IV. Discussion

The terms for Marshall Gannett, Floyd Sippel, and Richard Smith expire on November 30, 2023. In addition, Susan Baker has taken a job in Washington and resigned her position on the Committee in August 2023. Mr. Gannett is completing his second term and has reached his limitation of service on the Committee. Mr. Smith is completing his first term and has submitted a letter of interest to serve a second term with the committee. Mr. Sippel is not seeking a second term on the Committee.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has four open positions. To comply with statute, one of the open positions must be filled by a person who is actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. The other three positions may represent other groundwater interests, expertise, or geography.

The Department recommends:

- Appoint Lance Lindow, Klamath County Environmental Health Department Manager, as the local government representative;
- Reappoint Richard Smith to a second term representing the domestic well owner community;
- As of this writing the Department is still securing a science-focused candidate and a well drilling representative to fill the vacancies created by Marshall Gannett and Floyd Sippel. We will update the Commission if candidates for these positions are identified for consideration at the November meeting.

Terms for these positions would begin December 1, 2023 and continue through November 30, 2026.

Short biographies for the two recommended individuals are as follows:

Lance Lindow is the environmental health administrator for Klamath County, where he has overseen the Drinking Water Program for the past 8 years. In this capacity, Mr. Lindow provides technical support in operations, engineering, and analyte chemistry for about 150 public wells. Mr. Lindow has an academic background in understanding watersheds.

Richard Smith owns a family farm growing hazelnuts and timber in the Cooper-Bull Mountain Critical Groundwater Area. His property is served by four exempt-use wells, of which he drilled three, and he has monitored static water levels at these wells for a number of years. He was a realtor for 20 years, in addition to operating his family farm and has volunteered his time with several community organizations including the local school board and local citizen participation organization. He has served one three-year term with GWAC and is interested in representing the interests of exempt well owners for a second term.

V. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Lance Lindow and Richard Smith to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2026.
2. Appoint candidates in alternative 1 and candidates identified at a later date.
3. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments, which reflects a different set of interest categories and/or geographic locations.

VI. Recommendation

The Director recommends that the Commission select Alternative 1 and appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated term.

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