



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Acting Director Douglas Woodcock

SUBJECT: Addendum #1 to Agenda Item A, November 16, 2023
Water Resources Commission

Addendum to: Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Reason for Addendum

As of the drafting of the staff report, the Department was still securing candidates to fill the vacancies on the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC). This addendum updates the Commission regarding two additional candidates for consideration at the November meeting.

II. Discussion

In addition to the appointment of Lance Lindow and the reappointment of Richard Smith, the Department recommends:

- Appoint Zach Freed as a science-focused representative
- Appoint Chuck Fobert as a representative of the monitoring well construction industry.

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

Short biographies for the two additional recommended candidates are as follows:

Zach Freed is the Sustainable Water Program Director for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, based in their Bend office. Mr. Freed is also a hydrologist who conducts research primarily related to identifying groundwater-dependent ecosystems, understanding ecological water needs, and assessing drought and climate resilience of aquatic habitats. Mr. Freed also engages in water policy and planning work, including several years serving on the Harney Basin Groundwater Study Advisory Committee.

Chuck Fobert is the General Manager at Western States Soil Conservation Inc., a drilling company based in Hubbard. Mr. Fobert is a Licensed and Bonded Monitoring Well Driller and oversees 15 drillers and drill rigs operating daily. Mr. Fobert has worked closely with the Department's Well Construction Section on Special Standards. He is dedicated to the safety of

the state's groundwater, compliance with rule and statute, and the growth of licensed monitoring well drillers in the state.

III. Amended Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Lance Lindow, Richard Smith, Zach Freed, and Chuck Fobert to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2026.
2. 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.

IV. 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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