

WATER RESOURCES Department
AUGUST 12, 1993
WORK SESSION

MEMBERS

Lorna Stickel
Roger Bachman
Jim Howland
Cliff Bentz
Mike Jewett

STAFF

Martha Pagel
Steve Sanders
Diane Reynolds
Rick Bastasch
Ken Weese
Bev Hayes
Cindy Smith
Marc Norton
Rob Carter
Ken Lite
Steve Applegate
Reed Marbut
John Borden

OTHERS

Charles McGraw
Todd Heidgerken
Julie Keil
Jan Boettcher
Ted Scholer
Cliff Walkey
Margaret Hollenbach
Karen Green
Dave Leslie
John Johnson
Dale Hile
Karen Russell
Tiffany Perrero
Ron Nelson
Betty Marquardt
John Hossick
Sandra Sands
Anne Perrault

The staff reports presented at this meeting, which contain the Director's recommendations mentioned in these minutes, are on file in the office of the Director of the Water Resources Department, 3850 Portland Road NE, Salem, Oregon. Written information submitted at this meeting is hereby made a part of this record and is on file at the above address. Audiocassette recording tapes of the meeting are also on file in the Water Resources Department office.

ITEM 1 INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WELL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Rob Carter, Marc Norton and Steve Applegate informed the Commission on the Department's Well Construction Program's actions and responsibilities as well as personnel and available equipment. The Commission was also informed of pending related legislation.

Since the passage of the Ground Water Act in 1955, the Department has been actively involved in tasks ranging from regulating the construction of groundwater wells through the development and implementation of administrative rules. The Well Construction Program staff have contributed to this effort by interacting with the regulated community, explaining and enforcing current rules and performing field inspections.

The Department's administrative rules take Oregon's diverse geology and groundwater characteristics into account. The rules are designed to ensure that wells are constructed so as to minimize the potential for groundwater aquifers to become contaminated or for waste to occur. The most critical rules are those that specify allowable construction materials and those that specify depth and placement of the well seal. The rules also describe the requirements for well construction licensing, start card and well log submittals and special construction standards.

As the drilling industry has evolved, the rules have been modified to take new technologies into account. These technologies include the greater use of the rotary drilling method, new sealing products and the rapid evolution of the environmental monitoring well drilling industry. The program's effectiveness has also been recently improved by the addition of five regional well inspectors, the acquisition of new down-hole inspection equipment and the adoption of rules governing monitoring wells.

The growth of the monitoring well industry and the effects of the recent drought have brought about a dramatic increase in the number of wells constructed in the state. In 1992, the Department received a total of 8,767 well reports representing a 231 percent increase over 1982 submittals. Since regional well inspectors were hired in 1990, they have inspected at least 25 percent of the number of new wells constructed each year. During 1992, 2,406 wells were inspected though not all of these inspections were performed on new wells. This total represents both new and previously completed wells.

The Department's Well Construction Program performs a vital role in the protection of Oregon's groundwater resource. The Well Construction Program serves to protect the resource through interaction between Departmental staff and the regulated community.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This report was presented to the Commission as an informational item. No Commission action was required.

ITEM 2 UPDATE ON CENTRAL OREGON GROUNDWATER STUDY

Ken Lite and Marshall Gannett, US Geological Survey, presented this item. Representatives from participating groups described their roles, contributions and expectations with respect to the projected 3-year study.

Marshall Gannett gave a slide presentation on the groundwater resources of the Middle Deschutes Basin. Phase 1 of this two-phase project is scheduled to take 2 years for completion; Phase 2 is scheduled to take 1 year for completion.

John Hossick, City of Bend Planning Director, commented. Tape 2, Mark 480.

Karen Green, Director of Deschutes County, commented. Tape 2, Mark 617.

Dale Hile, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, commented. Tape 3, Mark 53.

Zack Willy, Environmental Defense Fund, gave a slide presentation. Tape 3, Mark 72.

Jan Boettcher, Oregon Water Resources Congress, commented. Tape 3, Mark 258.

Karen Russell, WaterWatch, commented. Tape 3, Mark 285.

No Commission action was requested.

ITEM 3 UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS

Reed Marbut provided an oral report on the progress of negotiations among representatives of the Tribes, the USA and the State of Oregon. In mid-1991, talks began with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to define the nature and scope of the Tribes' federal reserved water rights.

The next scheduled Negotiation Session is to be held October 28 & 29, 1993. Topics of review will be: flow levels, needs for gaging, current and future location of gaging, accurate record availability and identifying the historical record.

Martha Pagel feels optimistic and encouraged with the negotiations.

No Commission action was requested.

ITEM 4 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

Ken Weese gave an overview of what happened during the legislative session with the Department's budget. The Department's legislatively-approved operating budget consists of \$13.6 million in general funds and \$14 million in "other funds." Ten million dollars of the \$14 million in "other funds" is lottery money. One million of the lottery money is for GWEB. The total operating budget consists of \$27,000,693 with 157.3 positions.

Bev Hayes discussed the Department's legislative bills that passed and did not pass.

Bev Hayes summarized the last two weeks of the session. Hayes felt that the Department successfully negotiated bills and that this was a difficult session.

No Commission action was requested.

ITEM 5 COMMISSION RETREAT PREPARATIONS

Rick Bastasch presented the proposed agenda and discussion ideas for the 1993 Commission retreat to be held September 7 and 8. Bastasch asked the Commission

for input on retreat information that was previously sent to each member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant