



# Oregon

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission  
**FROM:** Director Ivan Gall  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item G, December 13, 2024  
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 previously 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
Phil Brown	Beavercreek	Hydrogeologist/Consultant	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024
Brandon Brown	Umatilla	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2025
Chuck Fobert	Hubbard	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2026
Ken Bentz	Crane	Groundwater Irrigator	1st Term Expires 11/30/2025
Kenneth Masten	Bonanza	Groundwater Irrigator	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024
Lance Lindow	Klamath Falls	Local Government	Resigned 10/10/2024
Richard Smith	Hillsboro	Domestic Well Owner	1st Term Expires 11/30/2023
Trent Castner	Portland	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2024
Zach Freed	Bend	Hydrologist/Conservation	1st Term Expires 11/30/2026

#### IV. Discussion

The terms for Phil Brown, Ken Masten, and Trent Castner expire on November 30, 2024. In addition, Lance Lindow resigned his position on the Committee in October 2024. All members with expiring terms have completed their second term on the Committee and have reached their limitation of service 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 an aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. The other three positions may represent other groundwater interests, expertise, or geography. The Department solicited interested parties for the commission and received six expressions of interest.

The Department recommends:

- Appoint Robyn Cook, Principal Hydrogeologist, GSI Water Solutions, Inc, to represent interests in technical hydrogeology.
- Appoint Dave Noble, groundwater irrigator in Klamath County, to represent groundwater irrigation interests.
- Appoint Steven Patten, Engineering Technician for the City of Milton-Freewater Public Works Department, to represent local government.
- Appoint Eric Schneider, Vice-President of Schneider Water Services based in St. Paul, to represent the monitoring and water well industry.

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

#### V. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Robyn Cook, Dave Noble, Steven Patten, and Eric Schneider to GWAC terms beginning December 12, 2024 through November 30, 2027.
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments, that 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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