

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1994  
SALEM, OREGON

MEMBERS

Cliff Bentz  
Anita Johnson  
Nancy Leonard  
John Frewing  
Mike Jewett

STAFF

Martha Pagel  
Steve Sanders  
Diane Reynolds  
Cindy Smith  
Becky Kreag  
Rick Bastasch  
Barry Norris  
Fred Lissner  
Reed Marbut  
Tom Paul

OTHERS

Jim Myron  
Karen Russell  
Gene Clemens  
Roger Bachman  
Jerry Schmidt  
Penny Harrison  
Holly Manke White  
Dale Hile  
Ron Hudson  
Stephanie Burchfield  
Doug Myers  
Marjo Nelson  
Margaret Hollenbach  
Lewis Pitt, Jr.  
Marion Millard

In addition to the individuals listed above, report authors and other staff were present for particular agenda items.

The 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, 158 12th Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310. 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.

## 1. INFORMATION REPORT ON GROUNDWATER CONCEPTS

Fred Lissner, Groundwater Manager, presented a general discussion of basic groundwater principles through the use of a number of diagrams designed to illustrate how groundwater occurs and moves. The diagrams illustrated such concepts as the hydrologic cycle, groundwater occurrence, groundwater flow, aquifer types, interference, aquifer characteristics, groundwater development impacts, and well construction and its effects. The diagrams were accompanied by an oral discussion. The discussion focused on the concept of gradient and groundwater/surface water interaction.

### DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report. No Commission action was required.

## 2. INFORMATION REPORT ON DESCHUTES BASIN GROUNDWATER CONSIDERATIONS

Fred Lissner, Groundwater Manager, briefed the Commission on the progress of groundwater management under the Commission directive in the Deschutes Basin.

In 1992 the Commission provided staff with direction relative to the continued processing of groundwater applications in the Deschutes Basin. Uncertainties continue to arise as the Commission deals with additional requests for groundwater permits in the basin. Given the continuing questions staff brought that direction back to the Commission for review.

The direction provided by the Commission in 1992 included the following:

- continue processing basin groundwater applications;
- remove from Division 9 rules the requirement for a critical area declaration to control some groundwater/surface water interference situations; and
- stimulate a study of the basin groundwater resources.

Staff gave an update on activities and progress under each of the three parts of the directive.

The focus of the Commission's discussion was on the hydraulic connection between ground and surface waters, principally the Deschutes River and the impacts of new groundwater rights on that river.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report. No Commission action was required.

Karen Russell, WaterWatch, expressed concern that conditioning permits would be ineffective because that, in effect, relies on enforcement to correct groundwater/surface water interference rather than prevention of it. She expressed preference for delaying permit issuance in the basin until the groundwater study is complete. She urged 1) the processing of all applications, both surface and groundwater, in the order of tentative priority; 2) the issuance of temporary permits or permits with reopener conditions; and 3) the consideration by the Commission of what is acceptable interference. Mark 537, Tape 2.

Marion Millard, Redmond, also expressed preference for delaying any further issuance of groundwater permits until the study is completed. Mark 10, Tape 3.

Roger Bachman, Oregon Trout, stated that permit conditions do not protect DIACK flows. He favors delaying groundwater permit issuance until the study is done. Quantity of water is not the only concern, but the temperature also. Mark 64, Tape 3.

Lewis Pitt, Jr., and Dale Hile, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, urged conservation and long-term resource sustainability. They also expressed concern for adequate water quality and quantity for fish and expressed a desire to work together to achieve that. Mr. Hile also urged that we wait for more information before issuing additional water rights. Mark 97, Tape 3.

3. INFORMATION REPORT ON PARRETT MOUNTAIN GROUNDWATER REPORT

Donn Miller, Hydrogeologist, presented an informational report on Parrett Mountain.

In January 1992, the Commission directed Department staff to conduct a groundwater investigation of Parrett Mountain. The direction was prompted by water well data and the concerns of some local residents that water levels were declining in the area.

The investigation report included discussions of the geology, climate, basalt aquifers, pumpage, and groundwater recharge for the 28 square mile area within Yamhill, Washington, and Clackamas Counties. The principal aquifers are within the Columbia River Basalt Group which serves as the dominant source of groundwater for the area. The investigation resulted in staff visits to more than 300 wells. On average, the wells showed small declines from historic levels.

The investigation discovered water level decline patterns in basalt aquifer wells in six areas. These patterns were based on historic and contemporary head similarities, proximity of wells, and same aquifer identification. The methodology to identify declines probably did not discover all possible decline pattern areas but did remove noise in the data since it required data integration from multiple wells.

#### DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report. No Commission action was required.

4. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A RULEMAKING HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OAR 690, DIVISION 502, SECTION 160 (GROUNDWATER CLASSIFICATIONS & CONDITIONS) & DIVISION 200, SECTION 026 (SPECIAL AREA STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION & ALTERATION OF WATER SUPPLY WELLS IN THE PARRETT MOUNTAIN AREA)

Fred Lissner, Groundwater Manager, and Donn Miller, Hydrogeologist, requested authorization to conduct a rulemaking hearing on Division 502, Section 160 and Division 200, Section 026.

The proposed rules were a revision to a set which went to hearing in June 1994. The number of proposed areas for restrictive classification were reduced from six to two based on a set of technical guidelines. The four areas were removed since three now appear to have stable water levels after historically declining and one area has undergone declines of less than 25 feet. The changes were thought great enough that they should have a separate hearing. The well construction rules would rely on the general well construction standards to prevent commingling.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

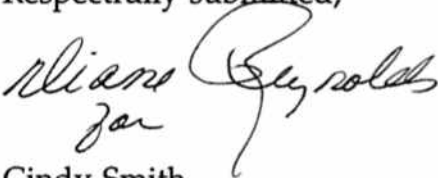
The Director and staff recommended that the Commission authorize an additional hearing on proposed changes to the Willamette Basin rules and special area well construction standards for Parrett Mountain to be held on September 26, 1994, and appoint a Commissioner to act as hearings officer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jewett and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adopt the Director's recommendation. All approved. Commissioner Frewing will act as hearings officer.

Acting Chair Bentz announced that an Executive Session was to be held immediately following the Work Session to consult with legal counsel regarding an attorney-client privileged document related to an application for water rights filed by Kinross Gold U.S.A., Inc..

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cindy Smith".

Cindy Smith  
Commission Assistant