



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Phillip C. Ward, Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item F, November 20, 2008  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### **Commission Approval of Appointments to the Ground Water Advisory Committee**

#### **I. Issue Statement**

The nine-member Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC) has three members whose terms expire on November 30, 2008. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 rules describe a process for soliciting candidates. Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the three open positions.

#### **II. Background**

The Commission's Ground Water Advisory Committee is appointed and charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090. These duties include: (1) advice on all matters relating to rules for the development, securing, use, and protection of ground water; (2) licensing and examination of well constructors; and (3) review of the proposed expenditures of start card fee revenue. The Committee consists of nine members who represent a range of interests and expertise, with at least three of the members actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry.

The Commission's rules under OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 provide a process to identify GWAC candidates, prescribe categories of expertise which may be represented on GWAC, and allow appointments for up to three years. The rules result in expiration of three terms 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 and/or reappointments.

### **III. Discussion**

The terms for Gregory Kupillas, Jim Mack Sr, and Nitin Joshi will expire on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kupillas was first appointed on December 1, 2005. Mr. Mack and Mr. Joshi have been members since December 1, 1999, having served three full terms. These two long serving members did not apply for reappointment. Mr. Mack is a licensed and bonded well constructor and owner of Bandon Well & Septic Company. He serves in the Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category. Mr. Joshi is the Water Resources Program Manager for the City of Salem and serves in the Local Government Category. All three have regularly attended meetings and been valuable participants in committee discussions.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three positions that must be filled. In order to comply with statute, a person who is actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry must fill one of the positions. The other two positions represent other interests or expertise. Current GWAC membership is listed in Attachment 2.

Recruitment for GWAC candidates included reviewing recommendations from individuals, organizations, and Department staff, as well as letters of interest from current members wishing to continue to serve. Notice of the recruitment was sent to individuals on the GWAC mailing list maintained by the Department. The notices advised interested parties of the committee vacancies and asked that those wishing to be considered for a position on GWAC to notify the Director.

A total of eight individuals expressed interest in filling the three vacant positions. The candidate pool was impressive. The recommended candidates include two new member appointments and the reappointment of one member. The Department recommends the new appointments of Kevin Gill in the Monitoring/Water Well Category and Rob Turkisher in the Local Government Category and reappointment of Gregory Kupillas in the Hydrogeologist Category. Terms for these three members would begin on December 1, 2008 and continue through November 30, 2011.

Kevin Gill has been a licensed and bonded well constructor in Oregon since 2004. He has earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Western Oregon University. Mr. Gill is a partner in Clouser Drilling LLC operating out of Cave Junction. He primarily constructs domestic water supply wells. Mr. Gill is a board member for the Oregon Ground Water Association.

Rob Turkisher is employed by Benton County as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. He has a Master of Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver. Mr. Turkisher has over 12 years of technical and regulatory experience with Benton and Lincoln Counties. He recently served as a member of the Department's Rules Advisory Committee helping develop the proposed well alteration rules.

Gregory Kupillas is co-owner of Pacific Hydro-Geology Inc and has served one term on the Ground Water Advisory Committee. He has earned a Master of Science in Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of Arizona. Mr. Kupillas is a registered geologist in Oregon, licensed hydrogeologist in Washington, and a Certified Water Right Examiner in Oregon. He has over 19 years consulting experience in environmental services. Mr. Kupillas is a board member for the Oregon Ground Water Association serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

#### **IV. Alternatives**

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Kevin Gill and Rob Turkisher and reappoint Gregory Kupillas to terms beginning December 1, 2008 and expiring on November 30, 2011.
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments to GWAC which reflects a different set of interest categories and/or candidates.

#### **V. Recommendation**

The Director and staff recommend that the Commission follow Alternative 1 and appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated terms.

Attachments:

1. ORS 536.090 and OAR 690-235
2. Current GWAC Membership

Jerry Rodgers  
(503)986-0825