



Oregon

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Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Phillip C. Ward, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J, November 20, 2009
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, 2009. 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 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 and/or reappointments. It is Commission direction that appointments be limited to two terms (six years).

III. Discussion

The terms for John Stadel, Lynne Paretchan, and Bob Jones will expire on November 30th. Ms. Paretchan and Mr. Jones are completing their first terms. Mr. Stadel is completing his second term.

John Stadel is a well constructor and owner of Arrow Well Drilling of Newberg. He has been a licensed water well constructor for more than 21 years and a licensed monitoring well constructor for more than 18 years. Mr. Stadel is a current board member and past President of the Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA). His knowledge of well construction made him a valuable member of GWAC, and the Department appreciates his service.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three positions that must be filled. In order to comply with statute, one of the positions must be filled by a person who is actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. The other two positions would represent other interests or expertise. Current GWAC membership is listed on 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 six individuals expressed interest in filling the three vacant positions. The candidate's qualifications are exceptional. The recommended candidates include a new member appointment and the reappointments of two members. The Department recommends the appointment of Bill Blair to replace John Stadel in the Monitoring/Water Well Category and the reappointments of Lynne Paretchan and Bob Jones. Terms for these three members would begin on December 1, 2009 and continue through November 30, 2012.

Bill Blair has been a licensed and bonded well constructor in Oregon since 1991. He has an Associates Degree in Water Quality Technology from Clackamas Community College. Mr. Blair is the owner of Dickerson Well Drilling operating out of Dallas. His firm primarily constructs domestic water supply wells. In 2008, he served as a member of the Department's Rules Advisory Committee helping develop the proposed well alteration rules.

Lynne Paretchan is an attorney with Perkins Coie in Portland. She practices environmental, natural resource, and water law. Ms. Paretchan holds advanced degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of California in Berkeley and Water Resources from the University of New Mexico. She has extensive knowledge of water quality, water right, and land use laws in Oregon. Ms. Paretchan has a strong technical and legal background in multiple natural resource interests that includes understanding local government issues.

Bob Jones is a geologist with the Medford Water Commission. He has more than 28 years experience involving ground water, water quality, geothermal exploration, engineering geology and watershed protection. Mr. Jones is a registered geologist, certified engineering geologist, certified water rights examiner, and certified field hydrographer. He has a strong technical and local government background that satisfies multiple interest categories.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Bill Blair and reappoint Lynne Paretchan and Bob Jones to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2009 through November 30, 2012.
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 candidates.

V. Recommendation

The Director recommends 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

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