



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Phillip C. Ward, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G, January 13, 2006
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 expired on November 30, 2005. 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 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, and the licensing and examination of well constructors; and (2) review of the proposed expenditure of start card fee revenues. The Committee is to consist 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 possible GWAC candidates, prescribe categories of expertise which may be represented on GWAC, and allow appointments for up to three years. The rules result in the expiration of three terms per year, thus staggering membership. Any mid-term vacancy is filled for the remainder of the term. Each year, staff seek Commission action on GWAC appointments and reappointments.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three regular membership positions that must be filled. In order to comply with the GWAC statute, a person who is active in the well construction industry must fill one of the positions. The other two positions may represent other ground water related interests. Current GWAC membership is listed in the Attachment.

Recruitment for new GWAC candidates included reviewing recommendations from individuals, organizations, and Department staff, as well as determining whether current members wish 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 notify the Director. Staff received a recommendation from the Oregon Ground Water Association (OGWA).

III. Discussion

A total of four individuals expressed interest in filling the three vacant positions. The recommended candidates include two current members and one new appointment. The Department recommends appointment of Greg Kupillas (hydrogeology category) and reappointments of Jim Mack (well industry category) and Nitin Joshi (local government category). Terms for these three members would begin immediately and end November 30, 2008.

Hydrogeology Category:

Greg Kupillas is a consulting hydrogeologist at Pacific Hydro-Geology Inc. in Mulino, Oregon. Mr. Kupillas has over 18 years experience with ground water work and is a registered geologist, a certified water rights examiner (CWRE), a Water Resources Department reimbursement authority contractor, and a member of the OGWA. His experience includes ground water research studies at the US Geological Survey, environmental and water supply consulting, and water rights. Mr. Kupillas has a strong background and has served on the GWAC Technical Subcommittee and the Technical Committee on Drilling Standards.

Well Industry Category:

Jim Mack is a well constructor from Bandon. Mr. Mack has been a licensed well constructor in Oregon for 18 years and is a licensed monitoring well constructor. He is a member and past President of OGWA. Mr. Mack primarily constructs domestic-sized water supply wells, but also some monitoring wells and larger water supply wells. Mr. Mack has excellent experience, he is a long-term member in the OGWA, and his presence will balance the geographic representation of GWAC.

Local Government Category:

Nitin Joshi has been the Water Resources Program Manager with the City of Salem for the last three years. Formerly, he was an environmental specialist with the City of Lebanon since 1995. His duties involve municipal concerns of wastewater, water supply, storm water, ground water, and solid waste. Mr. Joshi has worked with the following ground water issues: contamination clean-up, well field design, developing a wellhead protection program, and dry-well abandonment. Mr. Joshi has a wide breadth of experience and is the current GWAC chair.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Greg Kupillas (hydrogeology) and reappoint Jim Mack (well industry) and Nitin Joshi (local government) to terms beginning immediately and expiring on November 30, 2008.
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 candidates.

V. Recommendation

The Director recommends Alternative 1 that the Commission appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated terms.

Attachment:
Current GWAC Membership

Donn Miller
(503)986-0845

**OREGON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Barry Beyeler
Comm. Development Director
Boardman, OR

Serving in Local Government Category
Term Expires 11/30/06

Paul Christensen
Christensen Well Drilling
Eugene, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Ind. Category, Vice-chair
Term Expires 11/30/07

David Graham
Environmental Mgmt Services, Inc
Medford, OR

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category
Term Expires 11/30/06

Nitin Joshi
City of Salem
Salem, OR

Serving in Local Government Category, Chair
Term Expires 11/30/05

Malia Kupillas
Pacific Hydrogeology Inc.
Mulino, OR

Serving in Hydrogeologist Category
Term Expires 11/30/05

Jim Mack Sr.
Bandon Well & Septic Company
Bandon, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category
Term Expires 11/30/05

Merilyn Reeves
Amity, OR

Serving in Environmental Category
Term Expires 11/30/2007

Tim Smith
Burns, OR

Serving in Groundwater User Category
Term Expires 11/30/2007

John Stadel
Arrow Drilling Co.
Newberg, OR

Serving in Monitoring/Water Well Industry Category
Term Expires 11/30/2006