



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

Technical Services Division

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

Phone 503 986-0900

MEETING NOTES
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Rogue Conference Room, Oregon Water Resources Department, Salem, OR
with Online Video/Phone Conference option

GWAC members

Zach Freed, Chair
Richard Smith
Dave Noble
Ken Bentz
Steve Patten
Eric Schneider
Robyn Cook
Absent: Chuck Fobert

OWRD staff

Justin Iverson
Tim Seymour
Jason Spriet
Kelly Mainz
Annette Liebe
Kris Byrd
Laura Hartt
Matt Day
Kim Fritz-Ogren
Linda Ray

Attendees

Mark Owens
Lorissa Singhose
Breanna O'Conner
Roxanne Worley
Sabrina
Kelsey
Gortduo

A. Call to Order and Introductions, <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=401>

Zach Freed called the meeting to order. GWAC members and staff made their introductions.

Zach acknowledged comments by Steven Patten sent in after the last meeting regarding the 512 Rulemaking (during the comment period) and Kelly Mainz confirmed that his feedback was received and entered into the RAC record.

B. Approval of June 10, 2025 and July 29, 2025 Meeting Summaries, <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=564>

Ken made a motion to approve the June 10th and July 29th meeting summaries. Seconded by Dave, the motion was unanimously approved.

- **Richard Smith – yes**
- **Brandon Brown - yes**
- **David Noble – yes**
- **Robyn Cook – yes**
- **Eric Schneider – yes**
- **Ken Bentz – yes**
- **Zach Freed – yes**



C. Voluntary Agreements Among Groundwater Users

<https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=879>

Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, and Laura Hartt, Water Policy Analyst, presented an update on Departmental draft guidance to assist the Commission when evaluating whether a submitted voluntary agreement is consistent with statutory requirements (ORS 537.745). Key points on the presentation are linked below.

- What is a voluntary agreement: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1022>
- Timeline of Focus Group & Division 512 RAC Input: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1139>
- Statutory Requirements: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1217>
- Department Draft Guidance: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1333>
- Current Status of Voluntary Agreements in the Harney Basin: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1640>
- Next Steps: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1763>

Feedback from GWAC members: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=1847>

ACTION ITEM: Zach requested staff send a copy of the voluntary agreement template to GWAC members for review. This template was shared with the Department on June 30, 2025 by the High Desert Partnership and their facilitator, and was included as Attachment 2 to the Water Resource Commission September 2025 staff report for [Item G - Voluntary Agreements](#).

D. Division 512 Rulemaking Update, <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=2865>

Tim Seymour, Assistant Groundwater Section Manager, and Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, provided a brief status update of the 512 rulemaking effort that included a brief summary of themes from comments received during the public comment period. Staff grouped comments received during the public comment period into several themes listed below. The comments that remained (did not fit into a theme) will be shared in the December staff report to the Water Resources Commission.

Themed comments: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3145>

- Target water level trend: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3252>
- Boundaries of subareas: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3328>
- Permissible Total Withdrawal: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3406>
- Municipal Use: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3441>
- Implementation: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3565>
- Reduction Schedule: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3726>



- Water Use Measurement and Reporting: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3810>
 - Technical Concerns: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3845>
 - Impacts (economic, environmental and domestic wells): <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3926>
 - Rulemaking Process: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=3999>
 - Voluntary Actions: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4070>
- Next Steps: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4101>

Feedback from GWAC members: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4135>

E. Enforcement of Static Water Level Measurement and Reporting Permit Conditions, <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4297>

Kim Fritz-Ogren, Field Services Division Administrator, and Matt Day, Enforcement Section Manager, presented the Department's intention to enforce groundwater permit conditions requiring static water level measurement and reporting.

- SWL Requirement Basics: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4334>
- Project Goals: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4405>
- Strategic Priorities: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4441>
- Geographic Distribution of Requirement: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4536>
- SWL Requirement Cycle: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4625>
- Proposed Enforcement Process: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4694>
- Community Resources: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4863>

Feedback from GWAC members: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=4990>

ACTION ITEM: Richard shared a collaborative effort he is making with his neighbors to voluntarily measure their water levels to track trends in their neighborhood. Zach requested a follow-up from staff at the December meeting whether this idea could be implemented and how neighborhoods could submit their collective data to the department.

ACTION ITEM: Zach requested follow up from Kim and Matt in the Spring on how the outreach has been effective in reaching permit holders on reporting.

F. Public Comments: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=6104>

Mark Owens: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=6380>

Lorissa Singhose: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=7066>

Feedback from GWAC members: <https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=7209>



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Discussion on a motion to the Water Resources Commission:

<https://youtu.be/2xaETI7Dyxl?t=8260>

Richard made a MOTION to send the following recommendation to the Water Resource Commission. Seconded by Dave, the statement was unanimously agreed upon: “GWAC recommends the Commission allows public comment and feedback on Agenda Item G: Voluntary Agreement Guidance.”

- **Richard Smith – yes**
- **Brandon Brown - yes**
- **David Noble – yes**
- **Robyn Cook – yes**
- **Eric Schneider – yes**
- **Ken Bentz – yes**
- **Zach Freed – yes**

GWAC will hold a meeting before the December Commission meeting to discuss the details of the Voluntary Agreement guidance and may provide further detailed advice to the Commission in December.

ACTION ITEM: Staff will reach out to GWAC members to schedule a separate meeting to discuss the Voluntary Agreement Guidelines before the next scheduled GWAC meeting in December.

G. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

This meeting summary was prepared by Linda Ray and Justin Iverson.