



MEETING NOTES
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Attendance

GWAC members

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

OWRD staff

Justin Iverson
Tim Seymour
Jason Spriet
Ivan Gall
Annette Liebe
Kris Byrd
Laura Hartt
Linda Ray

Attendees

Rob Frank
Lorissa Singhose
Erick Keerins
Harmony Burright
Rachel O'Conner
Sabrina Maki
Darin Henry
Garshaw Amid-Abraham
Mike

*At the September 9, 2025, GWAC meeting, members heard a presentation on the Draft Guidance for Voluntary Agreements by OWRD staff. The discussion that followed included a request from GWAC members for an additional meeting focused on discussing this topic further. Members also requested OWRD staff accept additional written public comments on the subject in the following weeks. Those comments were forwarded on to the Committee prior to this meeting and are included as **Exhibit A** following this meeting summary. The objective for this meeting is to provide an opportunity for public feedback on the draft proposal, allowing for more GWAC member discussion as they prepare to make a recommendation to the Water Resources Commission in December on the Draft Guidance for Voluntary Agreements.*

Introductions <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=361>

Update on Draft Guidance for Voluntary Agreements

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=868>

Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, and Tim Seymour, Groundwater Section Assistant Manager, presented an update (**Exhibit B**) on the Department's proposed guidance for voluntary agreements among groundwater users from the Harney Basin Groundwater Reservoir. An updated draft of the guidance dated October 20, 2025 is available online at this link: [DRAFT Proposed Guidance for Harney Basin Voluntary Agreements 10.21.2025.pdf](#)



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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GWAC Discussion about the presentation: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=1304>

Public Comment Regarding the Draft Guidance for Voluntary Agreements:

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=1439>

Harney County Commissioner, Rob Frank: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=1515>

Lorissa Singhose: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=1586>

Ken Bierly: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=1739>

Harmony Burrigh: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=2251>

Rachel O'Conner: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=2674>

Erick Keerins: <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=2922>

GWAC member questions and discussion with public commentors:

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=2986>

Ken Bierly (second comment): <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=3394>

Committee Discussion Regarding the Draft Guidance for Voluntary Agreements:

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=3473>

OWRD Director Ivan Gall shared next steps and the timeframe for the Division 512 Rules if they are adopted in December by the Water Resource Commission:

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=5938>

GWAC's role with Voluntary Agreements going forward (summarized by Chair, Zach Freed):

<https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=6379>

Public Comment by Harmony Burrigh, <https://youtu.be/yFho8uKasjY?t=7307>

The meeting adjourned at 11:07am.

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