

MEETING MINUTES
GROUND WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)
April 22, 2011
Rogue Conference Room
North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

<u>GWAC Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>		<u>Others</u>
Greg Kupillas	John Messner	Doug Woodcock	Phil Ward	Kate Conley
Bill Blair	Rob Turkisher	Kris Byrd	Arla Heare	
Jim Carlton	Gary Zollman	Juno Pandian		
Kevin Gill	Lynne Paretchan (phone)	Tracy Louden		
Bob Jones		Brenda Bateman		

A. Call to Order - Chair Greg Kupillas calls meeting to order and performs role call.

B. Approval of Minutes

Greg Kupillas asks for an editorial clean up of the minutes located on the 2nd page under item F. Kevin Gill motions to accept the minutes with the minor correction, Bob Jones seconds the motion, motion is carried unanimously

C. Member Introductions

All members of committee introduce themselves to one another.

D. Welcome from Director Phil Ward

Director Ward talks to the committee and welcomes new members.

E. Budget Update and Start Card Expenditures

Tracy Louden, Administrator for Administrative Services presents updates on start card expenditures for the current biennium. Tracy explains that the revenue from start cards is down as the number of start cards being received by the department is down. The projection for the 2009-2011 biennium was 1.7 million based on 7500 total start cards being received over 2 years at \$225 each. Currently the department has received 5500 as of march 11th of 2011. This equals approximately 1.2 million dollars in revenue which is approx \$500,000 short of what they thought would come in. Tracy goes on to explain the management action taken by the department by leaving vacant positions open to allow the department to operate within the revenue coming in and also staying within the percentages mandated by law. Those percentages are: 5% may be spent on administration, 20% may be spent on technical, and 75% is to be spent on field and enforcement activity.

Based on the current biennium, the projection for the 2011-2013 biennium is 3200 start cards 1st year, and 4100 start cards in 2nd year or 7300 start cards total. The department anticipates the number received will be lower and will manage this as it has before in the current biennium.

Kevin Gill asks for a break down of water wells versus monitoring wells versus geotechnical holes. Tracy explains that the geotechnical holes are not included in the start card numbers and actually have their own fee. That fee had a projected revenue of approximately \$135,000 and the department has received approximately \$148,000 to date. Tracy explains that a rough breakdown of start cards received is probably 70 percent water wells and 30 percent monitoring wells.

F. Election of Officer

OAR 690-235-005(4) limits officer terms to two years. The Committee will be asked to select a new vice-chair.

Bob Jones Nominates Robert Turkisher as vice-chair. Greg Kupillas nominates Kevin Gill as vice chair. Kevin Gill declines nomination due to scheduling conflicts. With no objections and no other nominations, Rob Turkisher is elected the new vice-chair.

G. Legislative Updates

Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, presents an update to the committee on the 2011 legislative session and OWRD legislative bills.

Agency originated bills

SB126 - a measure that would ensure that Certified Water Right Examiners (CWREs) receive continuing education in water right laws and rules, and ensure that the state has the ability to address any problems that may arise during the course of CWRE work.

HB 2133 - a measure that streamlines Department transactions, by allowing electronic communications in lieu of hardcopy, whenever the Department and customer mutually agree to such communications.

HB 2134 - a bill brought to you by the Water Resources Department, and designed to drive down infrastructure costs related to the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project.

HB 2135 - a measure that streamlines Department transactions, by decreasing statutory requirements from placing notices in local newspapers from several weeks to two weeks in a row.

Outside proposed bills

HB 2748 - Relating to wave energy; and declaring an emergency. Allows additional types of wave energy projects to qualify for exemption from provisions related to hydroelectric projects. Has gained a lot of support in the house.

HB 2983 - constituent introduced bill relating to in-stream water right leases. Prohibits collection of fee to renew in-stream water right lease except upon occurrence of certain events. Has gained a lot of support in the house.

HB 2873 - Relating to fish supportive measures for hydroelectric projects located within artificial delivery systems; declaring an emergency. Provides that hydroelectric projects exempted from federal regulation and located within existing artificial delivery systems are not subject to additional requirements for fish screens, by-pass devices or fish passages if projects do not create change in stream conditions that adversely affects fish.

HB 3109 – Relating to ecosystem services; declaring an emergency. Expands state policy relating to ecosystems.

HB 3165 - a bill that establishes further parameters on water right transfers related to water stored in the Willamette Basin Federal Storage Projects.

Brenda also presents a power point to the committee regarding HB 2134.

H. Mosier Watershed Council

Kate Conley, Watershed Council Coordinator for the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District presents a powerpoint presentation on the Mosier Watershed Council's work on developing an understanding of the causes of ground water declines and remedies to stabilize the resource through cooperative work with the USGS in the Mosier Creek drainage.

I. Items not on the Agenda

Doug Woodcock Ground Water Manager/ Field Services Administrator explains to the committee that the rulemaking for ground source heat pump is on track and should be ready to go to the commission this November. A Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) will be formed sometime in either early June or late July depending on scheduling conflicts with the hydrogeologist who is in charge of the project. Doug will provide an updated schedule to GWAC.

Greg Kupillas asks Doug to explain the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that discussed significant clays and pertained to 690-210. Three well drillers were in attendance along with Jerry Schmidt of OGWA, and department staff discussed the language of the rule and having it defined or undefined and the concerns surrounding either decision. The decision was made for the drilling community (OGWA) to think about it and to come back at a later date with a decision on whether or not to pursue further. If a rule or policy was agreed upon it would be discussed at a future GWAC meeting.

J. Public Comment

None Given

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for August 26th, and may possibly be a conference call depending on agenda items.

Lynne Paretchan moves to adjourn, John Messner seconds

Meeting adjourned