



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1271
503-986-0900
FAX 503-986-0904

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Phillip C. Ward, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N, January 27, 2012
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Commission Approval of Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Issue Statement

The nine-member Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC) has three members whose terms expire on November 30, 2011. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 rules describe a process for soliciting candidates (Attachment 1). Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the three open positions.

II. Background

The Commission's Groundwater Advisory Committee is appointed and charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090 (Attachment 1). These duties include: (1) advice on all matters relating to rules for the development, securing, use, and protection of groundwater; (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 a range of 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 seek 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 Greg Kupillas, Kevin Gill, and Rob Turkisher expired on November 30, 2011. Mr. Kupillas completed his second term and reached his limitation of service on the committee. Mr. Gill and Mr. Turkisher are completing their first term and both have requested consideration for appointment to a second term.

Mr. Kupillas is a consulting hydrogeologist in the Willamette Valley, former chair of GWAC, and has represented the “Hydrogeology” category on the committee. Mr. Kupillas has provided his experience and expertise to the Department and the Commission in his service on GWAC. The Department appreciates his commitment and contributions. Mr. Gill is a business owner and well driller from Josephine County, Oregon. Mr. Turkisher is with the Benton County Health Department and serves in the “local government” category.

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, including hydrogeology and local government. Current GWAC membership is listed on Attachment 2.

Recruitment for GWAC candidates included reviewing recommendations from individuals, organizations, and Department staff. 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.

A total of eight individuals expressed interest in filling the three vacant positions, including Mr. Gill and Mr. Turkisher, both asking to be considered for appointment to a second term. The candidate’s qualifications provide a wide range of experience. The Department recommends the appointment of Michael Campana to replace Greg Kupillas in the Hydrogeology category; Kevin Gill to serve a second term in the Monitoring/Water Well Industry category, and Rob Turkisher to serve a second term in the Local Government category. Terms for these three members would begin on February 1, 2012 and continue through November 30, 2014.

Michael Campana is a professor of Hydrogeology and Water Resources in the Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University. Mr. Campana has been a practicing hydrogeologist for almost 40 years. Mr. Campana has worked in Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon since 2006, as well as performing service work on several national science and technical committees. Mr. Campana has a Bachelor of Science in geology, a Master of Science in hydrology, and a PhD in hydrology.

Rob Turkisher is an Environmental Health Specialist for the Benton County Health Department. Mr. Turkisher was most recently the vice chair for GWAC. Mr. Turkisher provides needed representation from a local government and health perspective. Mr. Turkisher has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Master of Environmental Policy and Management degree.

Kevin Gill is the owner of Clouser Well Drilling, a water well and pump installation company located in Grants Pass, Oregon. Mr. Gill is a member of the Oregon Groundwater Association and has been on the board of directors for five years, currently serving as the Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Gill provides needed representation from the well drilling industry in the southwestern part of the state. Mr. Gill has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Michael Campana, Kevin Gill, and Rob Turkisher to GWAC terms beginning February 1, 2012 through November 30, 2014.
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

Ivan Gall
(503) 986-0847