

**Water Resources Commission
Teleconference Meeting
Salem, Oregon
September 25, 2014**

WRC Present (phone)

John Roberts, Chair
Ray Williams, Vice-Chair
Carol Whipple
Dennis Doherty
Jeanne LeJeune
Bob Baumgartner
Bruce Corn

Staff Present

Tom Paul
Scott White (phone)
Cindy Smith
Racquel Rancier
Josh Spansail
Renee Moulun

Others

Amber McKinney
Tom Mallams (phone)
Tom Byler

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271. Audiotapes of the meeting are on file at the same address.

Chair Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioners, staff and audience introduced themselves.

COMMISSION MEETING: Thursday, September 25, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

A. Request for Adoption of OAR 690, Division 22, Granting Preference to Stockwatering and Human Consumption Use in Klamath County

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Commission on the temporary drought rules that were adopted April 1, 2014, and the rationale for undertaking the permanent rulemaking process.

Rancier provided an overview of the rulemaking process and discussed the public comments that were received during the public comment period, the Departments' response to those comments, and the resulting modifications to the original draft rules.

Chair Roberts announced that public comment would not be received until after the vote, and any comments received at that time would not become part of the record.

Commissioner Williams commented that he liked the position of the Department that this was transition period, and the corresponding sunset clause.

Commissioner Baumgartner agreed with the statements of Commissioner Williams, and spoke of the need for outreach in the future to prepare people for future rulemaking.

Acting Director Paul responded that outreach is happening, and will continue to happen.

Commissioner Whipple supported the Department's recommendations, and the comments of the other Commissioners'.

Commissioner Whipple moved to adopt administrative rules, OAR 690, Division 22, as proposed, which would sunset on December 31, 2014. Commissioner LeJeune seconded. Voting in favor Commissioners, Williams, LeJeune, Whipple, Corn, Baumgartner, Doherty, Roberts. Opposed, none.

Chair Roberts noted that the vote was unanimous.

Public Comment: Klamath County Commissioner Tom Mallams, took exception with Acting Director Tom Paul's comment that outreach and education has been ongoing. He applauded the commitment conduct more outreach in the future.

Commissioner Doherty inquired about future rulemaking in relation to the Upper Klamath Comprehensive Agreement, and if concerns raised would be addressed through future rulemaking processes.

Acting Director Paul responded that proposed groundwater rules have not had a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting yet, but the Department will be reaching out locally as the process unfolds. A RAC has been identified and includes a member from the City of Klamath Falls.

Tom Mallams complimented the Department for including the City of Klamath Falls in the RAC. He also felt that there was not enough time to review the staff report, because it wasn't available on the website until the day before the meeting, and felt that the process has not been very transparent.

Commissioner LeJeune asked about the timelines of the public hearing and public comment period. She said that she would like more information about what the Department and the Commission can do to improve the process, and felt like the Department did everything it could do.

Acting Director Paul said the Department committed to continued improvement.

Chair Roberts agreed with Jeanne, and said it would be a good agenda item for future Commission meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorri Cooper
Administrative Support,
Oregon Water Resources Department