

**Water Resources Commission
Teleconference Meeting
Salem and Burns
April 13, 2016**

WRC Present

John Roberts, Chair
Jeanne LeJeune
Bob Baumgartner
Carol Whipple
Bruce Corn

Staff Present

Tom Byler
Cindy Smith
Racquel Rancier
Renee Moulun
Dwight French
Machelle Baumberger
Kris Byrd
Ivan Gall
Jerry Grondin
Diana Enright
Jason Spriet
JR Johnson
Daly Swindlehurst

Others

April Snell
Lauren Smith
Adam Sussman
John Short
Karen Moon

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 members of the public introduced themselves.

COMMISSION MEETING

A. Request for Adoption of Temporary Rules, OAR 690, Division 512, Malheur Lake Basin Program and Groundwater in the Greater Harney Valley

Dwight French, Administrator, Water Right Services Division, and Ivan Gall, Administrator, Field Services Division, briefed the Commission on proposed Division 512 rules to provide options for new uses in the Great Harney Valley while a groundwater study is being conducted.

Staff noted a few clarifications on the written materials. Dwight noted that #32 on the list of groundwater applications pending in Attachment 6 should be shaded. Ivan noted that the Groundwater Advisory Committee reviewed the rules. Finally, on Attachment 1, Barbara Cannady was listed as a member of the Malheur Lake Basin Rules Advisory Committee, but was not a formal member - she attended meetings.

Commissioner Corn was the hearings officer. He noted that the community in general was very positive about the local involvement, and that this will be important to continue. He noted the rules address that involvement and are important to economic considerations in Harney County. He complimented OWRD staff for their diligence in working with local folks.

Commissioner Whipple commented on the collaborative effort, and appreciated the work and input from all involved.

Commissioner LeJeune asked for clarification on who will make up the Rules Advisory Committee in the future. French responded that the RAC will include the members of the study advisory committee. Gall commented that the Study Advisory Committee will be in place for about 5 years, and the RAC will convene after that.

LeJeune asked if the Department has enough money to proceed full haste on this study. Gall answered yes, assuming that the current funding will continue through the next two biennia. LeJeune hopes that future Commissions will keep this as a priority and in front of the Legislature.

Chair Roberts asked if the Department is funding the total cost of the observation wells, or if it was shared. Gall said the money from the Legislature designated for observation wells will be used under the guidance of the Study Advisory Committee. As part of the permit conditions, landowners will be required to construct observation wells with their own resources, and the Department hopes to match funds as much as possible.

LeJeune commented on the shortage of well drillers in the Klamath area. She asked if the Department is confident that there will be enough well drillers available for digging the observation wells. Gall said that he does not anticipate a shortage of drillers.

Commissioner Baumgartner commended staff on the collaborative efforts. He asked about Section 7C, and the reference to 10 feet, and whether it was a common depth for interference. Gall responded that 10 feet is unique to this area.

Chair Roberts asked if 2020 was a reasonable year for this to be completed. Gall said five years is a reasonable window of time to collect geological and hydrogeological data.

Commissioner Corn made a motion to adopt the proposed rules as shown in Attachment 5. Seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Corn, Whipple, LeJeune, Baumgartner and Roberts. Voting against the motion: none.

B. Request for Adoption of Rules, OAR 690, Division 79, Reservations of Water for Future Economic Development

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Commission on rules that outline procedures to consider requests to extend reservations.

Commissioner Corn commended the Department on the approach taken to include the local entities, and that this is a good example of how state government and citizens can have positive outcomes.

Chair Roberts noted that he was concerned about credibility and the reports, and hopes that future Commissions receive information from reservation proponents on progress. Rancier responded that staff will provide a summary report to the Commission every two years pursuant to provisions of the 509 Rules.

Director Byler agreed with Chair Roberts, and the comments made.

Commissioner Baumgartner made a motion to adopt the proposed rules in Attachment 2. Seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Corn, Whipple, LeJeune, Baumgartner and Roberts. Voting against the motion: none.

Commissioner LeJeune thanked Racquel for all her work on this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorri Cooper
Administrative Support,
Oregon Water Resources Department