



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Thomas M. Byler, Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item F, October 13, 2016  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### **Commission 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, 2016. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 rules describe a process for soliciting candidates. Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the Commission to consider appointing to the three open positions.

#### **II. Background**

The Commission's Groundwater Advisory Committee is appointed and charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090. 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 seeks Commission action on GWAC appointments and/or reappointments. It is Commission direction that appointments be limited to two terms (six years).

The current members of the committee include the following:

(Member, City of Residence; Category Represented; Year Appointment Expires, all November 30)

Garry Zollman, Chair	Pendleton	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2016
Jim Carleton	Merrill	Groundwater User	2016
Chris Hyatt	Portland	Environmental	2016
Scott Kruger	Corvallis	Local Government	2017
Said Amali	Portland	Multiple Backgrounds	2017
John Stadel	Newberg	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2017
Ryan Galbreth	Clackamas	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2018
Michael Campana	Corvallis	Hydrogeologist	2018
Tom Pattee	Springfield	Multiple Backgrounds	2018

### III. Discussion

The terms for Garry Zollman, Jim Carleton, and Chris Hyatt will expire on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Mr. Zollman and Mr. Carleton are completing their second terms and have reached their limitation of service on the committee. Garry Zollman is the owner of Zollman's Larry Burd Well Drilling based in Pendleton and currently serves as chair of GWAC. Jim Carleton is an irrigator in Merrill and represented the "groundwater user" category on the committee. The Department appreciates their commitment and contributions. Mr. Hyatt is completing his first term and has expressed interest in being appointed to a second term.

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 may represent other interests or expertise.

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.

The Department recommends the reappointment of Chris Hyatt, the appointment of Chad Courtney to replace Garry Zollman in the Water Supply or Monitoring Well Drilling category, and the appointment of Mark Owens to replace Jim Carleton in the Water User category. Terms for these three members would begin on December 1, 2016 and continue through November 30, 2019.

Biographies for all three individuals are as follows:

Chad Courtney is a licensed water well driller with more than 18 years of experience. Mr. Courtney installs irrigation, community, domestic, and stock water wells in the Columbia River Basalt and Alluvial aquifers of the Umatilla Basin. Mr. Courtney has become familiar with the laws and rules of OWRD and the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Program during the course of his work.

Chris Hyatt is a Registered Geologist, consulting hydrogeologist with 25 years of experience, and owner of Hyatt GeoSciences, LLC. Mr. Hyatt has experience in environmental geology, remedial investigations, feasibility studies, contaminant hydrogeology, water resources, and groundwater supply. Mr. Hyatt has worked in the Pacific Northwest, and understands environmental laws, regulations, water rights, and environmental issues.

Mark Owens is an irrigator in the Harney Valley with over 12,000 irrigated acres under ownership, management, or contract harvest. Mr. Owens is active on the Harney Basin Groundwater Study Advisory Committee and the Malheur Lake Basin Place Based Planning Partnership. Mr. Owens is very involved with and knowledgeable of local water issues and wishes to become more involved with groundwater issues at the State level.

#### **IV. Alternatives**

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Chad Courtney, Chris Hyatt, and Mark Owens to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2019.
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments, which reflects a different set of interest categories, geographic location, and/or candidates.

#### **V. Recommendation**

The Director recommends that the Commission select Alternative 1 and appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated terms.

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