



MEETING MINUTES
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)
January 13, 2017
Teleconference hosted in Deschutes Conference Room
North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

GWAC Members Present/Phone

Michael Campana (phone) (Chair)
Chad Courtney (phone)
Chris Hyatt (phone)
Mark Owens (phone)
John Stadel (phone) (Co-Chair)

Staff Members Present

Justin Iverson
Kris Byrd
Brenda Bateman
Samantha Phillips

- A. Call to Order** – Justin Iverson called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- B. Introduction of new members and selection of 2017 Chair & Co-Chair** – Justin Iverson introduced Mark Owens and Chad Hyatt as new members. Michael Campana and John Stadel volunteered to be the 2017 Chair and Co-Chair. Justin Iverson took a roll call vote and both were unanimously approved. Michael Campana as Chair and John Stadel as Co-Chair.
- C. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were reviewed and one change was suggested. In the Groundwater Update the language should read “Walla Walla Sub-Basin groundwater issues require departmental action.” Eliminating critical designation. Changes will be made to reflect this change in approved minutes. Mark Owens motioned to accept the minutes; John Stadel seconded the motion, members approved. Motion approved.
- D. Harney Groundwater Study Update** – Justin updated the Committee on the activities of the Harney Basin Groundwater Study Advisory Committee and the Department’s scientific investigation in the basin.
- E. Walla Walla Sub-Basin Rulemaking Update** – Justin reviewed the challenges facing the Walla Walla Subbasin and how OWRD is involving the public and other key players to educate and manage the area with a 4-step plan that consists of the following: 1) classify groundwater in the Subbasin for exempt uses only; 2) establish a Serious Water Management Problem Area to require metering and reporting of water use from existing basalt wells; 3) encourage voluntary agreements among users to reduce groundwater extraction from the basalt aquifers; and 4) potentially classify the subbasin as a critical groundwater area and curtail use by priority date if voluntary agreements are not implemented or are not successful in reducing the rate of water level declines in the area. Current efforts include a phased approach to rule making; developing a proposed map of the area that is classified as serious water

management area (SWAMPA). Timeline is to propose rule revisions to the Water Resources Commission during their May 2017 meeting.

- F. Groundwater Work Plan Update** – Justin presented a brief outline for a potential Groundwater Workplan, which will be developed as per the recommendations of the Water Resources Commission
- G. Items of Interest to the Committee** – Racquel briefly shared with committee what work is being done with 2017 Legislation. She outlined two legislative concepts introduced by legislators: 1) implementing a water rights management fee and 2) implementing a water use measurement and reporting requirement for existing water rights. She shared that we are in the beginning stages of legislative process and will keep the committee updated as the session progresses.
- H. Public Comment** – No public comments at this meeting.
- I. Next Meeting Date** – Dates will be determined by doodle poll for the week of March 20 - 24

Meeting Adjourned 10:15 a.m.