



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)**

March 24, 2017

Rogue Conference Room, Third Floor  
North Mall Office Building,  
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**GWAC Members Present/Phone**

Michael Campana (Chair)  
John Stadel (Co-Chair)  
Scott Kruger  
Chad Courtney  
Chris Hyatt  
Mark Owens  
Said Amail (Phone)  
Ryan Galbraith (phone)  
Tom Pattee (Absent)

**Staff Members Present**

Justin Iverson, GW Manager  
Kris Byrd, Well Construction/Enforcement Manager  
Jen Woody, Groundwater Hydrogeologist  
Brenda Bateman, TSD Administrator  
Samantha Phillips, TSD Administrative Assistant  
Racquel Rancier, Sr. Policy Coordinator

**Guests**

Jerry Schmidt  
Malia Kupillas

- A. Call to Order** – Michael Campana called meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
- B. Introductions** – A brief introduction was made by each committee member.
- C. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were reviewed from the January 13 phone meeting. Mark Owens motioned to accept the meetings as presented; Chris Hyatt seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. No opposition. No abstentions. 8-0-0
- D. Start Card Fee Update** – Lisa Snyder, Acting ASD Administrator, provided an update on funds generated by the Start Card Fee. Fees set by statute, currently \$225. Start Card Fees = 1% of budget and 18% of all fees. Supports 8-11 Staff. Projected balance at the end of the 2017-2019 biennium is approximately \$49,000.
- E. Well Construction and Compliance Section Update** – Kris Byrd, Well Construction and Compliance Section Manager, presented updates on upcoming Division 215 Rule-making regarding backflow prevention devices. A RAC meeting will be held in Salem on March 28, 2017. The RAC committee consists of professional products testing and training, pump installers, pesticide expert, Oregon Family Farmers, ODA, OHA-DWS, irrigator from Bend, TNC. Additional RAC meetings will be held as needed, followed by a public comment period and a public hearing. GWAC will be asked to provide formal input on the proposed rules at their next meeting, before the rules are scheduled for adoption by the Commission in August.

- F. Walla Walla Sub-Basin Rule Making** – Jen Woody, Hydrogeologist and Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, presented information on Walla Walla Subbasin rule making currently underway. A The rule revisions propose to classify all groundwater in the Walla Walla Subbasin for exempt uses only and designate a Serious Water Management Problem Area (SWMPA) for the basalt aquifers of the basin.

Jen described the history of the water use in the basin and data showing resultant water level declines. The Department has taken a phased approach for addressing groundwater level declines in the area: 1 - prevent further (future) groundwater declines; 2 - implement basalt water use measurement and reporting; and, 3- stabilize groundwater levels. Seven meetings have been held with the public and stake holders in the area with valuable input being obtained and taken into consideration as the rule revisions were developed.

Malia Kupillas provided public comment, requesting more permissive future use that what is envisioned in the draft rules.

Mark Owens made a motion to:

*I -With regards to classification of the basin (Bill Section3), GWAC urges the WRC to: Consider existing tools that allow time and rate limited permitted uses similar to those in place in the Amity-Walnut Hills groundwater limited area of the Willamette Valley. Revisit exempt use classification once data is collected and analyzed.*

John Stadel Seconded motion

Vote: Unanimous. No opposition. No abstain. 7-0-0

Ryan Galbrath was absent for this vote.

Later during the meeting Mark Owens made a motion to:

*II - With regard to SWAMPA/measurement (Bill-Sub-section 4), GWAC supports the SWAMPA as written in OAR 690-507-0030(4)*

Chris Hyatt seconded;

Vote: Unanimous. No opposition No abstain. 6-0-0

Ryan Galbrath and Said Amali were absent for this vote.

- G. Legislative Update** – Racquel Rancier, Sr. Policy Coordinator gave the committee an update on groundwater related bills currently being discussed by the legislature.

HB 2295 - WRD Bill regarding transaction fees.

HB 2296 – WRD Bill regarding well construction fees; amended to delete proposed fee for special standards.

HB 3051 –WRD Bill to expand measurement cost-share program to support installation of measuring devices on groundwater POAs.

Three non-WRD originated bills put forth by Representative Helm are currently in workgroups:

HB 2705 - requires measuring devices on all water users in the state.

HB 2706 - establishes annual water tight management fee.

HB 2707 - sets aside general fund dollars to fund additional groundwater studies.

The Governor's Recommended Budget contains both reductions and new proposals. A handout was provided of WRD's Governor's Recommended Budget to the committee members.

**H. Groundwater Update** – Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager presented the following Groundwater update:

- Groundwater staff are working the USGS on a groundwater study in the Greater Harney Valley area.
- Spring water level synoptic measurements throughout the state have recently been completed. Data retrieved was less than normal due to road conditions and snow pack.
- Marion County Court heard a lawsuit related to groundwater regulation in the Klamath Basin under Division 25 rules.
- Groundwater still has budget to drill obs wells, and several are scheduled for the Harney Basin in the next few months.
- Groundwater staff has been focusing on Harney and Walla Walla data collection.
- Groundwater staff has been making presentations around the state to place-based planning groups, OGWA, and at various school events including Children's Clean Water Festival.
- Mosier Update: Two programs are underway 1 – SWCD is overseeing well repair/replacement efforts to prioritize and fix commingling wells in the project area. This is a cost share program using funds secured by Rep. Huffman. 2 – Two irrigators are using a SB 839 grant to drill deep basalt wells in order tap a deeper part of the aquifer than currently used by domestic users.
- Ken Lite retired after 32 years of service.
- The 2017 revisions to the IWRS will be released for public comment in the near future. Committee agreed to have names added to the listserv to receive a copy of the draft.

**I. Committee Members Update**

- Chair, Michael Campana made mention of a new groundwater book: "*High & Dry*"
- Mark Owens would like a discussion to be started regarding forming a groundwater management district. Believes it could be a solution in both Harney and Walla Walla Sub- Basin.
- Chair, Michael Campana, encouraged members to use social media to tell their stories. Encouraged WRD to have a social media presence.
- Scott Kurger expressed his thanks to Ladeena Bell for her research help. Benton County is working on finding and addressing the sources of groundwater contamination.
- The committee thanked groundwater staff for their work with communities around the state.
- AWRA National Annual Conference will be held in Portland November 5-9, 2017

**J. Public Meeting Comments –**

Today's attending guests expressed their public comments when the agenda item was being considered. All public comments have been included under each agenda item.

Meeting Adjourned 2:05 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2016 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Salem.