



MEETING MINUTES  
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)

October 13, 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)  
Scott Kruger  
Chad Courtney  
Chris Hyatt  
Mark Owens  
Tom Pattee  
Said Amali  
John Stadel

**Staff Members Present**

Justin Iverson, GW Manager  
Brenda Bateman, TSD Administrator  
Samantha Phillips, TSD Administrative Assistant  
Kris Byrd, Well Construction & Compliance Manager  
Joel Jefferies, Well Construction Coordinator

- **Call to Order** – Michael Campana called meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.
- **Introductions** – A brief introduction was made by each committee member.
- **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were reviewed from the June 30, 2017 meeting. Mark Owens motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Tom Patee seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. No opposition. No abstentions. 8-0-0
- **Division 205 and 240 rule revisions to reflect changes from HB 2296** – Kris Byrd, Well Construction and Compliance Manager presented information regarding the Division 205 and 240 rule revision. The purpose of the change is to bring the rules into accordance with changes to homeowner drilling fees and drilling bond requirements made to ORS 537.753 by HB 2296A during the 2017 legislative session. The changes, which help protect Oregon's groundwater by supporting well construction and inspection programs include:
  - Bond increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for water well constructors.
  - Bond increases from \$ 5,000 to \$10,000 for land owner water construction
  - Property owner well construction permit fee increases from \$25 to \$500
  - Clarification of when a landowner well construction permit is required.

Comments on the rule change from the Committee included:

- Scott K. - Communicate with the public to clarify why the landowner well permit fee was needed.
- Mark O. – Make clear in such communication that the rule changes follow statutory changes, and that fees are generally set such that Department staff time is covered 50% by user fees and 50% by general fund.

Tom Patee made a motion to approve and support as a group the rule change recommendations to Division 205 and 240 to match the requirements of ORS 537.753. Vote: Unanimous. No opposition. No abstentions. 8-0-0

- **Membership Transition** – Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager shared that the three-year terms of service for Michael Campana, Scott Kruger and John Stadel will end as of November 30, 2017. Scott and John have expressed an interest in serving a second term. Michael is completing his second term the end of November. That will leave one open position to fill. Solicitations for this position will close October 20. The group was asked to forward the solicitation announcement to those that may be interested. New members will be appointed at the December 2017 Commission Meeting.

Said A. thanked Michael for his dedication and serves to the Groundwater Advisory Committee and made the suggestion to look for another recruitment that has academia credentials to help keep the Board well rounded.

- **Groundwater Update** – Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager updated the committee on major groundwater section activities since the last meeting, including:
  - Walla Walla Subbasin –
    - i. The next public meeting is scheduled for December. This meeting is to reiterate the effects of the May 2017 rule revisions and timelines regarding the mandatory metering by January 2019. Cost share program options from OWRD and NRCS to help well owners pay for metering devices will be presented.
    - ii. a deep basalt observation well is planned for the Walla Walla area. An RFP for the work is available on ORPIN. The contract will be administered by DAS
  - Harney Groundwater Study –
    - i. Data collection has been ongoing since the start of summer with more data to be added now that irrigation season is over. More wells will be added to the obs well network to cover a larger geographical area. Groundwater samples have been collected for isotope analysis for age dating.
    - ii. Two evapotranspiration monitoring stations provided through U. Nevada - Reno Desert Research Institute have been installed in the basin. They are welcome additions since the AgriMet weather station funding from BPA has stopped. Brenda B. informed the group that The Drought Readiness Council will be formally sharing their concern for the need of the funding to continue for the AgriMet program. Brenda asked if this Committee would like to do the same. Michael C. offered to write a letter as outgoing Chair that would reflect the same concern. The Committee members approved of the suggestion.
  - Mosier Area –
    - i. The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District is managing the comingling basalt well repair and replacement project. A driller has been selected and 15 sites chosen for rehabilitation. In addition, the OWRD Water Grant and Loans Program has been awarded to the SWCD to work with the two largest irrigators in the area to drill two new wells into underlying and previously unutilized basalt aquifer in an attempt to reduce the pumping stress on the overlying aquifers.

- **Committee Members Update**

- Mark Owens updated the group on the Harney Basin groundwater study and community-based planning efforts. After his first year as a GWAC member he sees room for additional improvement in the way the group could operate and would like to see the committee move to a more proactive instead of reactive position regarding groundwater issues.
- Tom Pattee reported that he is working on an update to the public water systems source water assessment report. The work includes an assessment of new contamination sources and new supply wells since the last report update in 2005.
- Said Amail reported that his company will be more involved in the Harney County discussion representing tribal interests. He voiced his opinion that climate change impacts will focus more attention on creating storage for future water needs and that shoulder-season irrigation will occur more frequently.
- Scott Kruger voiced his opinion that public needs to be better educated regarding contaminants in well water. He'd like to see agencies be more proactive in education. He voiced concern that new marijuana cultivation may result in increased incidents of well contamination. Kris Byrd explained that the new backflow rules were recently passed to address that issue.
- Michael Campana shared some of the groundwater presentations that were scheduled at the upcoming AWRA Conference November 5-9 and the Jantzen Beach Red-Lion in Portland. Registration was still open. As his final comment Michael expressed his appreciation for the experience of sitting on the committee for the past few years. He enjoyed the experience and expressed his gratitude for all the members.

**J. Public Meeting Comments –**

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30 p.m. Next meeting: TBD