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WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at
OWRD home page, under
Agency Spotlight >
Well Said Newsletter.
Please share with others at
your organization.

Well Said is a production of
the OWRD Well Construction
& Compliance Section and is
designed to inform the drilling
industry and the public about
program activities and other
items of interest.

Questions or suggestions
about this newsletter may be
directed to Kristopher Byrd
at (503) 986-0851 or email at
kristopher.r.byrd@oregon.gov



*Serving the public by practicing
and promoting responsible water
management.*



MEET HYDROGEOLOGIST JOE KEMPER

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is pleased to introduce Joe Kemper, hydrogeologist for the Groundwater Section here at OWRD in Salem. Mr. Kemper received a BA in Psychology from Georgetown University in 2009 followed by an MS in Water Resources Engineering and two years of post-baccalaureate work in Geology at Oregon State University.

Joe has been a hydrogeologist for the agency since July 2016. While his work is primarily focused on the Walla Walla sub-basin, he also works in the Rogue, Umpqua, and South Coast basins. Joe states that his ability to work consistently in a geographical region allows the Department to learn the unique features specific to an area, such as the geology, hydrology, and water use. But most importantly, Joe appreciates that this grants him the privilege to learn the history of the basin, meet the people who live there, and see how all those elements fit together. Mr. Kemper is always looking for opportunities to learn and states that he enjoys working with well constructors as they have a unique knowledge base with regard to Oregon's geology and hydrogeology.

When Joe isn't working with water, he enjoys hobbies on the water. He is an avid whitewater kayaker and looks forward to the winter rains in Oregon as they bring exciting runs in the Cascades and Coast Range.

For questions regarding hydrogeology in the aforementioned basins, please contact Joe at (503) 986-0912 or via e-mail at Joseph.B.Kemper@oregon.gov.

**CHECK OUT THE
NEW WEBSITE!**

NEW SW REGION MANAGER

The OWRD is pleased to announce the hiring of Jake Johnstone as Southwest Region manager. Jake replaces Larry Menteer, who retired last year after 28 years with the Department. Jake will oversee the work of field staff that inspect wells, and that measure and distribute water in the South Coast, Rogue, and Umpqua basins, which primarily span Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties.

Mr. Johnstone previously worked as the OWRD District 14 watermaster in Grants Pass.



Prior to serving as watermaster, he held field positions as regional assistant watermaster and hydro-tech for the SW Region, conducting streamflow measurements. Jake graduated from Southern Oregon University with a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. Jake will work out of the SW Region Office located in Medford. He can be reached via email at Jake.D.Johnstone@oregon.gov or phone at (541) 774-6880.

NEW OWRD WEBSITE

After more than two years of planning, hard work, and shared effort, the Water Resources Department was proud to unveil its new website on September 12, 2018.

Although there are many reasons for the change, the primary factors include providing a better webpage experience for customers and easier access to data. The "Resources for Well Constructors" page was designed as a central repository for information and content most frequently accessed by licensed well constructors. As you use the new website, if there is information that you access regularly that is difficult to find, or if you think of additional categories you would like to see added, feel free to contact OWRD via e-mail at wrd_dl_wcc@oregon.gov to provide comments or suggestions.

If you have not yet visited the new website, then please go to www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/index.aspx and take a look. The Department looks forward to hearing from you so that we can provide a user friendly page for all.

GOODBYE AND **THANK YOU** TO CINDY SMITH

Cindy Smith, Executive Assistant to the Department Director, will retire from the Oregon Water Resources Department on Jan. 1, 2019, after 39 years of service to the agency. The November 2018 meeting of the Oregon Water Resources Commission will mark the 128th commission meeting that Cindy has been involved in running. Recently, she sat down for an interview with the Administrator of the Technical Services Division, Brenda Bateman, who asked her the following questions.



Q. What jobs have you held since joining the agency?

A. I've held six jobs, including clerical assistant in water rights, running the mail room, serving in and managing the word processing center, becoming assistant to then-Deputy Director Meg Reeves, and then becoming executive assistant hired by then-Director Phil Ward.

Q. What memories stand out in these jobs?

A. I grew up on a farm that had water rights. I had no idea what that meant when I started working here at age 18. After working at the Department for a few years, I remember going out into the field with Jim Bull, who was taking water level measurements out near the coast. I was hearing words and phrases that I recognized from working in the mailroom. It was starting to make sense to me. Applying what I learned in the field helped back at the office for sure.

The Department used to have a teletype machine that was located in the mail room. Every time Mount St. Helens had any activity, the teletype machine, which printed news alerts, started going crazy. Mount St. Helens was erupting and so was the mail room! We were hooked right into news coming from the U.S. Geological Survey and had a front row seat to see all the updates.

When I started with the Department, Tom Paul was watermaster in The Dalles and Mike Ladd was watermaster in Dallas. Boy, was that a long time ago. Typing letters was done using a Selectric, yes, I said Selectric, typewriter and carbon paper. When we transitioned to the word processing system, the beginning of the computer era, I typed, all from hand written notes, the Rogue Basin Report, Willamette Basin report, and many dam safety reports and water right certificates. I transcribed the letters that Wayne Overcash read into his tape recorder. For the record, yes, we had paved roads when I started working here. I'm not so sure about when Tom Paul and Mike Ladd started though. LOL!!

I remember asking the groundwater section, where Marc Norton, Mike Zwart, Bill Bartholomew, Ken Lite, and Doug Woodcock were working, questions like "What does commingling mean?" They were great about explaining terms and drawing pictures. They were great teachers.

In the mid-1990s I helped with the water right backlog. I was pulled out of my position for 18 months and helped conduct initial reviews. I worked under Dwight French and Dick Bailey. I did the initial review on more than 900 instream water rights. You can still see my initials at the bottom of those forms.

When Director Byler was here (the first time) in the late 1990s, I helped with rulemaking, especially the filing of rules. Tom helped me understand how the process worked and how to format and read all the versions that needed to be prepared for the record. Thankfully, the system is now more automated!

Q. What kind of changes have you witnessed at the Department?

A. I've served under six governors and seven directors in four different office locations. The thing that's changed the most are the faces. A lot of people have moved around, or have come and gone! Still, it's a big family. That's why I've stayed with the same agency all these years.

Q. What advice do you have for newly arriving staff?

A. Learn as much as you can about what the agency does. It's the key to your success. Learn what other positions do and how they interact with the rest of the Department. The more you know, the more valuable it will be.

Q. What are your future plans?

A. My husband Ron is going to be retiring in January as well. We plan on lots of play time with our grandkids and traveling across the country in our RV!

WELL LOG AND GEOTECHNICAL HOLE REPORT REVIEWS

At the end of a busy summer, the Well Construction and Compliance Section would like to remind the drilling industry that completeness reviews of incoming well reports and geotechnical hole reports have been delayed due to current staffing levels.

The position that is responsible for these reviews has been vacant since May 1, 2018, so there is an existing backlog of reviews that will be processed as soon as the position is filled and staff is trained.

Please keep in mind that once the backlog of report reviews begins, requests for corrections will be sent immediately. This may mean that some constructors will get a number of them at one time. For that we apologize, and truly appreciate your patience.

For questions regarding well report or geotechnical hole report reviews contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov.

TIPS FOR E-FILING START CARDS

E-filing a start card is simple, convenient, allows you to pay with a credit or debit card, and saves time and postage. In fact, it is so simple and convenient, that as of the first week of October 2018, 3,390 start cards have been e-filed with the Department this year alone. Of these, roughly two-percent get stuck in "payment pending". This is a simple fix on our end, as staff can put the start card back into your shopping cart for the payment to be completed. If this is something that happens to you often, here are some steps you can take to make sure that the transaction is fully completed:

- Ensure that you have a strong internet connection; a weak Wi-Fi signal may cause issues.
- Make sure that your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.) is up-to-date.
- Are your computer and software current? Older hardware and software may cause problems.
- Follow all of the on-screen prompts leading to a receipt.
- You may e-file on your mobile device, but be aware that occasionally there are issues when transmitting payment.

For problems related to e-filing, please contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov.

Ken Smith is also available to provide assistance at (503) 986-0867 or by e-mail at Kenneth.L.Smith@oregon.gov.

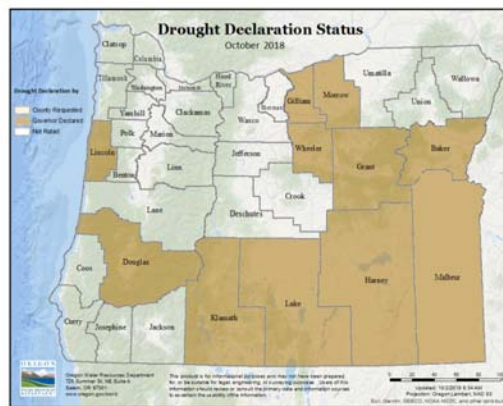
STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Water Resources Commission and Department have been working on a strategic planning effort in order to prioritize their work during the next five years. The strategic planning effort was in part inspired by the Secretary of State's 2016 performance audit, which identified how a strategic plan could carry forward the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and improve the agency's work.

Since that time, the Department has been working in consultation with the Commission, stakeholders, and partner agencies to identify priority issues. The Department's tentative timeline for adoption of the strategic plan by the Commission is November of 2018.

For more information regarding the Department's strategic plan, contact Kim Ogren at (503) 986-0873 or by e-mail at Kim.L.Ogren@oregon.gov.

ADDITIONAL COUNTIES DECLARE DROUGHT CONDITIONS



It should come as no surprise to those living in Oregon that 2018 has been one of the driest years in decades. In fact, so far in 2018, Governor

Kate Brown has announced a drought emergency in eleven counties due to low snowpack, lack of precipitation, low stream flows, and high temperatures. The most recent counties added include Gilliam, Lincoln, Malheur, and Morrow.

Drought conditions have serious impacts on the State's economy, as well as natural resources, livestock, and fisheries. To minimize these impacts and provide support to the community, Governor Brown has directed state agencies to work with local and federal partners to provide assistance to counties affected by drought.

Oregon's state agencies will continue to work with local governments and other partners to coordinate efforts and mobilize actions to address drought-related issues. The Governor's drought declarations authorize state agencies to expedite water management tools to which users would not otherwise have access. As state and local officials coordinate with federal partners, conditions will be closely monitored by the state's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the OWRD and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Staff plans to present an overview of Oregon's 2018 drought during the Water Resources Commission Meeting in Salem, November 16, 2018.

GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What is the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC) and what do they do? GWAC consists of nine members - each representing a range of interests and expertise - who advise the Commission on all matters relating to rules, legislation, and public policy for the development, securing, use, and protection of groundwater. It also provides input on the licensing of well constructors, the examination of such persons for license, and the proposed expenditures of all revenues generated under the start card program.

The Department recently recruited to fill three of the positions on the committee for members who are concluding their terms. Staff is currently reviewing the applications of prospective members and will make recommendations to the Commission to consider for appointment during its November meeting in Salem. The Department would like to thank those that have applied and encourage others to apply for open positions on GWAC in the future.

For questions about GWAC or for information regarding how to apply in the future, contact Justin Iverson at (503) 986-0933 or by e-mail at Justin.Iverson@oregon.gov.

GEOTECHNICAL HOLE REMINDER

The Water Resources Department would like to remind professionals who construct geotechnical holes, that a Geotechnical Hole Report Form is required to be submitted for each boring constructed within 50 feet of a water supply or monitoring well; used to make a determination of water quality; constructed in an area of known or reasonably suspected contamination; or if the hole is greater than 18 feet deep.

There are a wide variety of geotechnical holes that require reports to be submitted. The list includes, but is not limited to: drive points, soil borings, rock borings, temporary sample holes, permeability test holes, inclinometers, and soil vapor holes.

Geotechnical holes that don't meet **any** of the criteria detailed above still need to have a professional responsible for the construction and abandonment of the geotechnical hole, but a Geotechnical Hole Report Form is not required.

Questions about geotechnical hole responsibility should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by email at Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov.



Photo by Fox2now.com

REMEMBER TO LOOK UP

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), at 9:15 a.m. on November 29, 2017, a drilling machine operator was setting up his rig and preparing to drill a boring as part of a bridge construction project on Interstate 44 in St Louis, Missouri.

Apparently, the employee assumed that since he was drilling on the interstate there would be no overhead powerlines to worry about, so he proceeded raise the tower. Unfortunately, there were energized overhead lines above the drilling machine and when the tower made contact with them, the driller was electrocuted and killed.

It only takes a minute for an accident to occur, so no matter how safe the environment feels, remember to always check your surroundings for safety hazards, and always look up.

For more information regarding this accident, go to the OSHA website at: https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.inspection_detail?id=1279594.015

SAFETY REMINDER

The following accident description from OSHA provides a good reminder about the benefits of proper safety training. In Laguna Beach, California, on September 15, 2017, a concrete construction company employee was working on the foundation of a new residence. He was busy preparing caisson rebar frames when he was suddenly struck by a turning Mobile Crawler Hydraulic Drill. His leg was crushed between the drill rig and a caisson frame.

Emergency services were immediately called and the employee was transported to the hospital, where he was admitted and treated for multiple fractures.

An investigation into the accident determined that no spotter was working with the equipment operator, and the concrete employee had not received appropriate safety training. A \$14,400 fine was levied by OSHA against the concrete construction Company for safety violations.

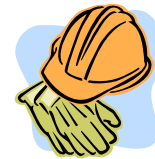
For more information regarding OSHA requirements go to <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx> or call (503) 378-3272.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Drilling in progress.

Flowing artesian well in Eastern Oregon.



Drilling with foam.

Cement trucks lined up for seal placement.





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