




MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director 

SUBJECT: Agenda Item B, November 15, 2018
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Introduction

During this agenda item, the Commission will be asked to consider appointing three candidates to the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC).

II. Background

The Groundwater Advisory Committee is a nine-member committee charged with certain duties pursuant to ORS 536.090. These duties include: (1) advice on rules related to groundwater; (2) licensing and examination of well constructors; and (3) review of the proposed expenditures of start card fee revenue.

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. The Commission has directed that appointed members be limited to two terms (six years).

GWAC members represent a range of interests and expertise, including at least three members from the well drilling industry and the remainder representing interests in hydrogeology, irrigation, local government, Indian Tribes, environment, public health, industry, commerce, water project development, watershed enhancement, instream flow, agriculture, well pump installation, exempt ground water users, or any other category with a ground water interest (OAR 690-235-0005).

The current members of the committee are listed in the following table. The expiring positions are underlined and italicized. The Department thanks these Committee members for their service.

Groundwater Advisory Committee

(Name; City of Residence; Category Represented; Year Appointment Expires; Term)

<u>Said Amali</u>	<u>Portland</u>	<u>Water Project Development</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Tom Pattee</u>	<u>Springfield</u>	<u>Public Health/Hydrogeology</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Ryan Galbreth</u>	<u>Clackamas</u>	<u>Monitoring/Water Well Industry</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>1st</u>
Chris Hyatt	Portland	Environmental Consulting	2019	2nd
Mark Owens	Crane	Irrigation, County Government	2019	1st
Chad Courtney	Pendleton	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2019	1st
Scott Kruger	Corvallis	Public Health	2020	2nd
John Stadeli	Newberg	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2020	2nd
Marshall Gannett	Portland	Hydrogeology	2020	1st

III. Discussion

The terms for Said Amali, Ryan Galbreth, and Tom Pattee expire on November 30, 2018. Mr. Amali and Mr. Pattee are both completing their second term and have reached their limitation of service on the committee. Mr. Galbreth is completing his first term and has declined the opportunity to serve a second term due to a change in job duties that has prevented him from participating as fully as he wished to in the past few meetings.

In accordance with the rule process, GWAC has three open positions that must be filled. In order to comply with statute, one of the open 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 groundwater interests, expertise, or geography.

Notice of the recruitment was sent to individuals on GWAC and Commission mailing lists on September 4, 2018, and was distributed to members of professional and trade organizations. 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 also reached out to potential candidates to try to generate more interest and a broader applicant pool. The Director received six applications for membership and one unsolicited letter of recommendation.

The Department recommends Phillip Brown, Trent Castner, and Kenneth Maston for the open positions. Terms for these three members would begin December 1, 2018 and continue through November 30, 2021.

Short biographies for the three recommended individuals are as follows:

Phillip Brown is a consulting hydrogeologist that has practiced in Oregon since 1990. He is an Oregon Registered Geologist and is also licensed in Washington and Idaho. Phil's work has focused on implementing solutions to issues related to over-appropriation and conjunctive use tied to instream flow requirements. Phil would represent hydrogeology, industry (consulting), and water project development interests.

Trent Castner is a licensed and bonded monitoring well driller that has over 25 years of experience in the geotechnical and environmental drilling industry. Trent's experience spans many levels of the industry, including work as a drill rig operator, shop and site foreman, project manager, operations manager, and most recently as a drilling supply specialist. Trent would represent the well drilling industry and commerce (drilling supplies and equipment) interests.

Kenneth Maston is a farmer from Klamath County who grows hay, grain, and pastureland irrigated with both surface water and groundwater. Ken is a member of Oregon Farm Bureau's water committee and a board member of the Klamath-Lake County Farm Bureau, as well as being active in many other civic services. Ken would represent irrigation and agricultural interests and provide geographic representation from the Klamath Basin.

IV. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Appoint Phillip Brown, Trent Castner, and Kenneth Maston to GWAC terms beginning December 1, 2018 through November 30, 2021.
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with another slate of appointments, which reflects a different set of interest categories and/or geographic locations.

V. Recommendation

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

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