



MEETING SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)
June 12, 2018
Rogue Conference Room, Third Floor
North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

GWAC Members Present/Phone

Chad Courtney
Ryan Galbreth (phone)
Marshall Gannett
Chris Hyatt
Scott Kruger
Mark Owens
Tom Pattee, Vice Chair
John Stadeli, Chair

Staff and Public Members Present

Brenda Bateman, TSD Administrator
Harmony Burright, Planning Coordinator
Kris Byrd, Well Construction & Compliance
Manager
Ivan Gall, Field Services Administrator
Jerry Grondin, Hydrogeologist
Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager
Jonathan La Marche, Hydrologist (phone)
Samantha Phillips, TSD Administrative
Assistant
Racquel Rancier, Sr. Policy And Legislative
Coordinator
Ben Scandella, Hydrogeologist
Allison Aldus, The Nature Conservancy
Jerome Rose, Oregon Cattleman's
Association
Jonathan Sandona, Oregon Farm Bureau
Coreen S_____, The Nature Conservancy
(phone)

An audio recording of this meeting is on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301. This meeting summary was prepared by Samantha Phillips and Justin Iverson.

• **Call to Order and Introductions**

John Stadeli called the meeting to order at 9:03. A brief introduction was made by each committee member and those in attendance and on the phone.

• **Approval of Minutes**

Mark Owens made a motion to approve the March 13, 2018 minutes as presented. Chad Courtney seconded the motion. Committee vote was unanimous. No opposition. No abstentions. 8-0-0

• **2019 WRD Groundwater-Related Policy Option Packages**

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Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy and Legislative Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the groundwater-related proposals included in the Department's proposed 2019-2021 agency requested budget and responded to committee members' comments and questions. A WRC staff report on this topic, including handouts presented to the Committee at this meeting, is available here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7767

- **Guest Presentation – Groundwater Basin Study Prioritization**

Allison Aldous, Freshwater Scientist at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) presented a recent Nature Conservancy assessment and prioritization of groundwater basins that could benefit from a future basin study and responded to committee members' comments and questions. The TNC report is available here: <https://tnc.box.com/s/o9gzhpc9823h990eiumjpmicxyu5mj2>

- **Harney Basin Groundwater Study and Planning Update**

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager previewed a presentation given to the Water Resources Commission (WRC) on June 14th and responded to committee members' comments and questions. A WRC staff report on this topic is available here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7769

The final presentation is available on the WRC website here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7789

Mark Owens, Harney County Commissioner, irrigator, and Community-Based Water Planning Co-Convener updated the Committee regarding the ongoing collaborative community water planning effort in the county. His points were later presented at the June 14 WRC meeting and his presentation slide deck is available on the WRC website here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7791

Owens indicated that a water budget estimate developed for the Harney Basin was a key communication tool describing groundwater over-appropriation and the need to take action. He suggested that a similar water budget estimate prepared for each basin in the state would be a proactive and beneficial screening tool that may be used to avoid or address groundwater over-appropriation issues similar to those in Harney County. He opened up a discussion regarding public communication and outreach regarding groundwater topics among the committee.

Owens made a motion that the Groundwater Advisory Committee, "Recommend that the Department assess the resources necessary to produce basin-wide groundwater balance estimated state-wide (similar to Grondin, 2015 initial Harney Basin water Balance." Tom Patee and Chris Hyatt both seconded this motion. Committee vote was unanimous. No opposition. No abstentions. 8-0-0.

John Stadelin spoke for the Committee in thanking Mark for his involvement in the place-based planning and groundwater study efforts.

- **Groundwater Update**

Ivan Gall, Field Service Division Administrator provided an update on groundwater-related regulation activities in the Klamath Basin and responded to committee members' comments and questions. A WRC staff report on this topic is available here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7766

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Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager updated the committee regarding ongoing groundwater-related work in the Milton-Freewater and Mosier areas. This update is also provided in the June 2018 Director's report to WRC here:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/vault/vault.aspx?Type=WrdNotice¬ice_item_id=7773

- **Committee Members Update**

The committee discussed their desire to be involved in the Department's planning and budgeting process as they feel that it is their job as an advisory committee. Committee members will be placed on the Department's stakeholders notification email listserv and when possible Committee members will participate.

- **Public Meeting Comments**

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned 1:35 p.m.

Next meeting dates: September 4 and November 13