



MEETING SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)
September 4, 2018
Room 124A
North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

GWAC Members Present/Phone

Marshall Gannett
Chris Hyatt
Scott Kruger
Tom Pattee, Vice Chair

Staff and Public Members Present

Samantha Bayer, Farm Bureau
Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manger
Kris Byrd, Well Construction and Compliance Manager
Samantha Phillips, TSD Administrative Assistant

This meeting summary was prepared by Samantha Phillips and Justin Iverson.

• **Call to Order and Introductions**

Tom Pattee called the meeting to order at 9:05. A brief introduction was made by each committee member and those in attendance and on the phone.

• **Approval of Minutes**

A quorum did not exist at this meeting. The June 12, 2018 meeting minutes were tabled and will be approved at the next meeting.

• **GWAC Recruitment**

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager reviewed the recruitment process for new GWAC members. Tom Pattee and Said Amali are ending their final term on December 31. Ryan Galbreth is ending his first term on the same date and has indicated he does not wish to serve a second term.

The recruitment process will start today and run for five weeks. A review of candidates will take place prior to the next GWAC meeting and Justin will share with the committee the individuals whom the Department will be recommending to the Commission for appointment. Members are encouraged to recruit for new members. A message will go out on the GWAC and Commission list-serves and Committee members were encouraged to spread the word to those they think may be interested in serving on the Committee.

DRAFT

- **Groundwater Update**

Justin Iverson updated the committee regarding ongoing groundwater-related work in the Mosier, Walla Walla, Harney and Klamath areas.

Mosier Subbasin: The well replacement project to address comingling wells initiated last year has been ongoing - 6 of the planned 14 wells have been replaced to date. The “deep wells” project partially funded by the OWRD Water Projects Grants and Loans program has resulted in the installation of one deep well. A high-pressure aquifer encountered when drilling the first well caused difficulty in controlling and sealing the upper aquifers and resulted in a significant budget overrun. The second well has been put on hold until additional funding can be obtained.

Walla Walla Subbasin: An intern was hired and a small USGS cooperative project has been initiated to investigate the groundwater chemistry of several wells in the Walla Walla Subbasin. The team collected water samples over the summer and the samples are currently at the lab for analysis of general chemistry and isotope geo-chemistry to support analysis of the source and age of groundwater in the basalt aquifers of the area.

Starting Jan 2019 a rule change goes into effect requiring all permitted basalt groundwater users to measure and report their annual water use. There are approximately 100 well owners that need to comply with the regulation. A community meeting is scheduled for mid-December to review the rule requirements and explain the Department’s plans to confirm compliance.

Harney Basin: The Harney commission was presented with the data that has been compiled during the Place-based planning sessions. Our field presence is ramping down and we are working on the preliminary results. A public Town Hall meeting will be scheduled for getting the greater community up to speed.

- **Committee Members Update**

Marshall Gannett: the Geological Society of America will host the [Cordilleran Section Annual Meeting](#) in Portland in May 2019. The USGS has embarked on a cooperative project with other federal land agencies to assess springs located throughout SE Oregon, and are currently working on developing a spring inventory and collecting water samples for geochemistry analysis. For more information visit the [USGS Oregon Water Science Center](#) website.

Tom Pattee: OHA is in the process of conducting a groundwater source water assessment with DEQ. One focus is on groundwater systems and the impacts related to the current drought. Contact Tom for a copy of the final report.

Scott Kruger: Benton county has completed a domestic well inspection project. Contact Scott for a copy of the final report.

- **Public Meeting Comments**

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned 10.40 a.m.

Next meeting dates: November 13