



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)
November 19, 2019
Conference Call-in-Meeting
Rogue Conference Room
North Mall Office Building,
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

GWAC Members:	WRD Staff:	Visitors:
Marshall Gannett - Chair - Phone Mark Owens Chad Courtney - Phone Ken Masten Chris Hyatt – Phone Scott Kruger - Phone Phillip Brown - Phone Trent Castner	Justin Iverson Samantha Phillips Racquel Rancier Emma Land Kris Byrd Ben Scandella	

- **Call to Order and Introductions**

Marshall Gannett called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

- **Approval of Minutes**

The September, 2019 meeting minutes were presented typos were corrected and unanimously approved.

Approved meeting minutes are available on the GWAC website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/GWWL/GW/Pages/Groundwater-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

- **Implementation of SBs 854, 855, 688 and HB 3030**

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, updated the committee on the newly passed legislation of which directs agencies to offer professional licensing on a temporary basis to armed force spouses. Racquel indicated that an advisory committee is in the process of being set up. She asked the committee for any initial thoughts. After a discussion the committee agreed that the most important factor would be that they need to be able to pass the drillers test to make sure they are in compliance with Oregon rules.

Racquel briefly discussed progress regarding implementation of a bill directing agencies to develop ID numbers instead of using Social Security numbers. The logistics of implementation are being discussed within the Agency.

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Racquel discussed progress regarding implementation of a bill that directed agencies to study the manner in which immigrants are licensed within the agency. The Department sent a survey to its key stakeholders and has received 11 responses to date. At this point the Department does not appear to have many barriers to licensing, and when they do arise accommodations have been made.

- **Groundwater Updates**

Justin Iverson provided updates on the following ongoing groundwater projects:

Harney Study Update – The final GWSAC Meeting will be held in December. The USGS/OWRD cooperative study team will present the near-final water budget values and provide descriptive narratives of the groundwater flow systems observed in various subbasins within the study area. A written draft is expected to be submitted for scientific peer review in January. The study will be communicated in two reports, a water budget report and a hydrogeologic conceptual model report. The study is on track to be published by October 2020, with rule recommendations presented by the end of 2020.

Mark Owens shared that the community team members understand that groundwater extraction exceeds recharge in some areas of the basin and that groundwater use changes need to be implemented soon.

Walla Walla Update – Funding from the 2019 Legislature for a second concurrent basin study will create 6 new positions in the department, including a public engagement facilitator for the planned Walla Walla Basin study. To date, efforts have been made to invite and involve the State of Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in a cooperative study with the USGS. Currently there are many groups who have an interest in the Basin and it has been recommended to pull representatives from all those groups before settling on a final scope of work for the study. Further public outreach and planning efforts will occur after the facilitator is hired.

Klamath Basin Follow-up

In April of 2019 a revised set of Division 25 rules were adopted by the Commission to govern groundwater regulation in the Klamath Basin. The rules will be in place for two irrigation seasons, in which time the Department will reach out to the community regarding permanent replacement rules. The Department has hired Kerns and West to help facilitate this outreach effort. On December 16 the Department will hold an Open House to create a forum to answer questions and set up the frame work for a future Rule Advisory Committee.

GWAC Recommendation Follow-up

The last statewide groundwater budget report was conducted by the USGS in 1968. A draft plan to update this study has evolved into a staged effort looking at one third of the state at a time. The USGS has prepared a draft scope of work to estimate groundwater budgets for basins west of the Cascades. The estimated cost for the study is about \$300,000. At this point there is no funding to proceed.

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 10:30 AM

This meeting summary was prepared by Samantha Phillips and Justin Iverson