



**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**  
**GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)**  
February 11, 2020  
Rogue Conference Room  
North Mall Office Building,  
725 Summer St. N.E., Ste. A  
Salem, Oregon 97301

<b>GWAC Members:</b>	<b>WRD Staff:</b>	<b>Visitors:</b>
Marshall Gannett Chad Courtney Ken Masten Scott Kruger Phil Brown Trent Castner Susan Baker John Stadel	Justin Iverson Samantha Phillips Lisa Snyder Racquel Rancier Kris Byrd Ivan Gall	Donovan Sipple – OGWA Aaron Schnieder - Karen Whistler – DEQ - Phone Lisa Brown – Waterwatch –Phone

- **Call to Order**  
Marshall Gannett called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- **Introductions and Selection of 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair**  
Welcome new member Susan Baker to committee. John Stadel motioned to appoint Ken Masten as 2020 Committee Chair with Marshall Gannett as Vice Chair. Trent Castner seconded the motion. Approved.
- **Approval of Minutes**  
The November 19, 2019 meeting minutes were presented 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>

- **Overview**  
Justin reviewed with the committee what to expect for the coming year. GWAC meetings will be held the Tuesday prior to Water Resource Commission meetings and the content of the GWAC meetings will include groundwater related items scheduled to be presented to commissioners in order to solicit the committee's advice for the commission. In addition, statutes instruct the committee to have input on Driller licensing should that topic come up. Legislative proposals will be shared and feedback is encouraged.

## **DRAFT**

- **Start Card Fee Update** – Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Administrator provided the annual overview of the Start Card fee budget for the upcoming year. ORS 537.762 (6) allocates the resources from start card fees to the Water Resources Department Operating Fund, which the Department uses to employ personnel to inspect wells and well construction. ORS 537.763 (4) requires that no more than 5% of start card expenditures are used to fund administrative work, no more than 20% are used to support technical work, and no less than 75% are used to support field and enforcement work. Projected expenditures from the start card fee for the 2019-21 biennium are projected to be \$1.5M, of which 92% will be spent on field and enforcement, 8 % will be spent on technical work, and 0% will be spent on administrative work.
  
- **Well Construction and Compliance Update**  
Kris Byrd, Well Construction and Compliance (WCC) Section Manager provided an update on recent well construction enforcement actions. The Department strives for education and voluntary compliance ahead of enforcement with respect to well construction rules. Kris shared two examples of recent well enforcement actions and the consequences of the violations, including fines and license suspensions.
  
- **Legislative Update**  
Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy and Legislative Coordinator, provided an overview of the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions focusing on items relating to groundwater management. SB 1562- Relating to the Umatilla Basin; declaring an emergency. The bill creates program for gathering and reviewing data and research regarding groundwater in Umatilla Basin and creating implementation plan to improve groundwater quality. Requires the appointment of taskforce and the program would sunset in 2030. Racquel pointed attention to the Well Construction placeholder for any work that may occur with respect to a 2021 legislative concept to modernize the well construction program, with an approach to do a comprehensive review of well log reports and increase the Department’s ability to inspect more wells in a timely manner to address well construction deficiencies (the current physical inspection rate is approximately 25% of all drilled wells). Racquel noted that the list for potential bills in the 2021 session is starting to be compiled and that the Well Constructors-Continuing Education program is due to Sunset in 2022.
  
- **Klamath Basin Rulemaking**  
Ivan Gall, Field Services Administrator, presented the planned next steps in developing rules and regulations for groundwater distribution in the Upper Klamath Basin. Ivan shared a brief history of the issues regarding groundwater in the upper basin, specifically that pumping wells in the area diminishes surface water baseflow. In 2019 a set of short-term rules were adopted to govern gw regulation with the intent that the Department and local stakeholders would discuss options for a long-term distribution scheme. An open house in Chiloquin was hosted by the Department in December as a first step in this process. Watermasters and the Region Manger are having conversations with members of the public about the issue on a regular basis.
  
- **Harney Basin and Walla Walla Basin Goundwater Studies Update**

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Harney Study Update – The science team is completing the final draft study reports and plan to submit them for a peer review in Spring 2020, with a goal to publish the reports by October 2020. The last meeting of the local Study Advisory Committee was held in December 2019, and the Department is now engaging with the Harney Community Based Planning Collaborative group on study related matters.

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 we are working with the USGS to collect initial data and review past studies and data sources. A public engagement coordinator will be recruited in the near future and steps are being made to include both Washington and Oregon sides of the Basin in a community engagement process.

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned approximately 11:40 AM

This meeting summary was prepared by Samantha Phillips and Justin Iverson