



MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E, December 3, 2021
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

I. Introduction

During this agenda item, the Commission will be asked to consider re-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. 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) on the committee.

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 groundwater users, or any other category with a groundwater interest (OAR 690-235-0005).

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

Name	City of Residence	Category Represented	Term
<i>Kenneth Masten, Chair</i>	<i>Bonanza</i>	<i>Groundwater Irrigator</i>	<i>1st Term Expires 11/30/2021</i>
Marshall Gannett, Vice-Chair	Portland	Hydrogeologist	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2023
Chad Courtney	Pendleton	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2022
Floyd Sippel	Salem	Monitoring/Water Well Industry	1st Term Expires 11/30/2023
Mark Owens	Crane	Groundwater Irrigator	2nd Term Expires 11/30/2022
<i>Phil Brown</i>	<i>Beavercreek</i>	<i>Hydrogeologist</i>	<i>1st Term Expires 11/30/2021</i>
Richard Smith	Hillsboro	Domestic Well Owner	1st Term Expires 11/30/2023
Susan Baker	Medford	Local Government	1st Term Expires 11/30/2022
<i>Trent Castner</i>	<i>Portland</i>	<i>Monitoring/Water Well Industry</i>	<i>1st Term Expires 11/30/2021</i>

III. Discussion

The terms for Phil Brown, Trent Castner, and Kenneth Masten expire on November 30, 2021. All three committee members are completing their first term and have expressed interest in serving for a second term.

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.

The Department recommends reappointment of Phil Brown, Trent Castner, and Kenneth Maston to serve second terms on the committee. Terms for these three members would begin December 3, 2021 and continue through November 30, 2024.

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 with over 30 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, branch and operations manager, and most recently as a regional estimator. Trent would represent the well drilling industry.

Kenneth Maston is a 5th-generation 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, a board member and Treasurer of the Klamath-Lake County Farm Bureau, and a board member and Vice President for the Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, 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 3, 2021, through November 30, 2024; or
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 the Commission select Alternative 1 and appoint the recommended slate of candidates for the stated term.

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