



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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To: Interested Persons
From: Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager

SOLICITATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC) is a nine-member committee appointed by the Oregon Water Resources Commission to advise the Commission on groundwater issues. The appointment terms of three GWAC members expire each year on November 30. Agency staff will recommend candidates for open positions at a Water Resources Commission meeting in December 10-11, 2026. Appointments will be made for a three-year term expiring on November 30, 2028. Statutes and rules governing the Committee are attached.

The vacancies may be filled by individuals with expertise in and representing interests of one or more of the following: well drilling industry, hydrogeology, irrigation, local government, Indian Tribes, environment, public health, industry, commerce, water project development, watershed enhancement, instream flow, agriculture, well pump installation, exempt ground water users, or any other category with a groundwater interest. We also look for candidates representing various regions of the state.

For all who wish to apply for membership by appointment, please submit a brief letter describing your background and groundwater interest to:

Ivan Gall, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE, Ste. A
Salem, Oregon 97301
Or, electronically to wrd_dl_director@water.oregon.gov

There is a rolling application process for GWAC positions and letters of interest are accepted year-round. However, a letter of interest should be received by October 31, 2026, to ensure consideration for appointment in December 2026.

For additional information please contact Justin Iverson at 503-302-9728 or gwac.admin@water.oregon.gov

Oregon Revised Statutes

536.090 Ground water advisory committee; duties; qualification; term; expenses.

(1) In carrying out the duties, functions and powers prescribed by law, the Water Resources Commission shall appoint a ground water advisory committee to:

(a) Advise the commission on all matters relating to:

(A) Rules for the development, securing, use and protection of ground water; and

(B) Licensing of well constructors, including the examination of such persons for license.

(b) Review the proposed expenditure of all revenues generated under ORS 537.762 (5). At least once each year, and before the expenditure of such funds on new program activities, the Water Resources Department and the ground water advisory committee shall develop jointly a proposed expenditure plan for concurrence by the Water Resources Commission. The plan may be modified, if necessary, upon the joint recommendation of the department and the ground water advisory committee with concurrence by the commission.

(2) The committee shall consist of nine members who represent a range of interests or expertise. At least three of the members shall be individuals actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. Members shall serve for such terms as the commission may specify. The committee shall meet at least once every three months and at other times and places as the commission may specify.

(3) A member of the committee shall not receive compensation, but at the discretion of the commission may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred, subject to ORS 292.495

Oregon Administrative Rules

690-235-0005 Ground Water Advisory Committee: Appointments, Terms, and Qualifications

(1) There is created the Ground Water Advisory Committee consisting of nine members appointed by the Commission: Three of whom shall be individuals actively engaged in some aspect of the water supply or monitoring well drilling industry. Members shall be residents of Oregon.

(2) Each member shall be appointed for a term of up to three years. When a vacancy occurs before the expiration of a term, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term only. Terms shall be staggered. Three of the terms shall expire each year.

(3) The Commission shall consider geographic representation, population representation, as well as a range of interests and expertise in the selection of members. The committee shall be composed of individuals with expertise in and representing interests of one or more of the following: well drilling industry, hydrogeology, irrigation, local government, Indian Tribes, environment, public health, industry, commerce, water project development, watershed enhancement, instream flow, agriculture, well pump installation, exempt ground water users, any other category with a ground water interest. The Commission shall give consideration to individuals with multiple category backgrounds.

(4) Officers of Committee: The Committee shall select one of its members as Chair and another as Vice-Chair. Maximum terms of officers shall be two years for each position within six consecutive years.

(5) Meetings of the Committee: The Committee shall meet at least once every three months at locations specified by the Director.

(6) Members may receive travel expenses subject to ORS 292.495.

(7) The Department shall solicit candidates for the committee in anticipation of an appointment. The Department shall mail notice seeking candidates to all persons and organizations which have filed with the Department a written request to be included on the mailing list maintained for the Ground Water Advisory Committee. Appointments to the committee are not limited to individuals submitted for consideration as a result of the solicitation process set forth above.

690-235-0020 Ground Water Advisory Committee Duties

The Committee shall consider and advise the Commission on all matters relating to:

(1) Rules, legislation, and public policy for the development, securing, use, and protection of groundwater.

(2) Licensing of well constructors, including the examination of such persons for license.

(3) Review the proposed expenditure of all revenues generated under ORS 537.762(5). At least once a year, and before the expenditure of such funds on new program activities, the Water Resources Department and the Committee shall develop jointly a proposed expenditure plan for concurrence by the Water Resources Commission. The plan may be modified, if necessary, upon the joint recommendation of the Department and the Committee with concurrence by the Commission.