

Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Study Advisory Committee Charter

Background

In response to observed groundwater declines the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) initiated a groundwater study in cooperation with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to better understand and characterize groundwater resources. In May 2016, OWRD and the Harney County Court appointed a Groundwater Study Advisory Committee consistent with OAR 690-512-0020 section 11, * which is the language incorporated in the revised Basin Program Rules adopted in April 2016. A list of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee Members is included as Attachment A. A list of the Groundwater Study Team is included as Attachment B.

Purpose

The purpose of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee is to foster an open exchange of information, data, and ideas between Harney County residents, other interested parties, and the OWRD and USGS Groundwater Study Team with the intent of strengthening the groundwater study. In order to accomplish this, the Advisory Committee will:

- Create a forum where groundwater scientists can share data, information, analyses, and observations on a regular basis with the committee; and,
- Collect, compile, and share local knowledge, expertise and data that is relevant to the study.

Objectives

Members of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee, in coordination with USGS and OWRD, will work to achieve following objectives:

- Contribute to the integrity and validity of the groundwater study;
- Build trust and credibility in the study process and outcomes;
- Determine what information gaps exist for groundwater in the basin and assist in gathering this information;
- Encourage the collection and use of relevant hydrogeologic data within the basin;
- Identify opportunities to include local knowledge, expertise, and data in the groundwater study;
- Ensure that there are continued opportunities for meaningful public engagement throughout the duration of the groundwater study;
- Increase community awareness and actively promote the understanding of groundwater resources, the overall water budget, and the information contained in the study;
- Ensure that the study is accomplished as intended in the timeframe set out in rule (OAR 690-512-0020) and that information is useful for long-term planning and management;
- Coordinate groundwater study efforts and information with other complementary water planning and management activities in the basin;
- Help to identify and advocate for resources to support successful execution of the groundwater study.

Member and Meeting Protocols

- A. Member Selection.** Members of the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee will be jointly appointed by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and the Harney County Court. Original members were jointly appointed by OWRD and the County Court based on letters of interest submitted to the Harney County Court in 2016. No additional members will be added unless a current member withdraws consistent with Sections B and C or is removed by a consensus vote of the Committee.
- B. Length of Appointment.** All members agree to stay engaged in this process until Phase 1 of the Groundwater Study is completed in 2020. In the event a member can no longer serve on the Committee, they will actively work with the other Committee members to find a suitable replacement consistent with Section B. The replacement will be appointed consistent with Section A.
- C. Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal.** All participation in this process is voluntary and may be withdrawn. However, members agree that before withdrawing they will discuss the reason for their withdrawal with the other members and will give the Committee an opportunity to understand the reasons for withdrawal and to encourage continued participation, if appropriate. If a member withdraws, the Committee members will seek to find a suitable replacement. The replacement will be approved consistent with Sections A and B.
- D. Attendance.** All members agree to attend Committee meetings in person in Harney County. Phoning in does not constitute attendance. Sending a proxy does not constitute attendance. A pattern of missing meetings will be considered inappropriate. If a committee member misses two consecutive meetings without notifying the Chair it may result in dismissal from the Advisory Committee.
- E. Meeting Frequency and Duration.** The Committee will meet quarterly. The length of the Committee meetings will vary depending on discussion topics of interest identified by the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee members and Study Team. Conference calls or sub-committee meetings may be scheduled between quarterly meetings if the Committee identifies interests or concerns that warrant additional attention.
- F. Public Meetings.** All meetings of the Committee will be open to public attendance and there will be an opportunity for public comments and questions. The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee will also help OWRD and USGS find opportunities to provide presentations to the community to foster awareness and understanding of the groundwater study and solicit public feedback.
- G. Ground Rules.** Members will treat each other with respect throughout the process. They will listen to each other to seek to understand each other's perspectives, even if they disagree. One person will speak at a time. Members will participate fully in letting the group

know their perspective on issues, their concerns, and their different points of view. At the same time, members will respect time constraints and will share the speaking time with others.

- H. Addressing Concerns.** All members shall make every effort to bring all aspects of their concerns into this process to be addressed openly by all members.
- I. Meeting Agendas.** Meeting agendas will be developed using an open and transparent process. Committee members will propose topics to include on the agenda. The Chair will help to draft the agenda and solicit feedback from committee members.
- J. Meeting Notes.** OWRD will draft meeting notes that outline the issues discussed, any action items identified, and any decisions or recommendations. Members will have the opportunity to review and make corrections before the notes are finalized.
- K. Good Faith.** All members will act in good faith in all aspects of these discussions. This includes being honest and refraining from undertaking any actions that will undermine or threaten this process. Members shall refrain from generating controversy in the press and from publicly criticizing or misrepresenting statements made by any participant during this process. All members agree to maintain the respectful tone of the meetings outside the formal meetings, including all email correspondence. Any reporting to constituents, the media, or other parties will focus on issues and not individuals. Members are reminded that all email messages concerning the Advisory Committee should be considered public documents.
- L. Chair.** The committee will nominate and elect a chair person using consensus. The chair will: serve as the leader of the process; communicate with each of the advisory committee members to elevate individual ideas/discussion topics and build an agenda that is acceptable to all; coordinate with the facilitator to make sure that meetings are well structured and that expectations are clear; help to identify and resolve conflict if/when it arises; manage group discussions and dynamics to ensure the process is positive and productive. The chair will commit to serve a two year term with no limit on number of terms.
- M. Developing Recommendations by Consensus.** Feedback and input will be actively solicited from the individual members throughout the Groundwater Study process. In the event the Committee would like to make formal comments or recommendations as a unified body to the Groundwater Study Team, they will use the following process:
 - Decisions on Committee recommendations will be made by consensus of all present participating members. The strength of consensus will be measured by having members indicate their support for a proposal (1=actively oppose, 2=passively oppose, 3=neutral, 4=passively support, 5=actively support). Consensus in this instance is defined as: all present members, minus one, are either neutral or supportive of the proposal.

- The commitment to work for consensus means that members will participate in the give and take of the process in a way that seeks to understand the interests of all and will work together to find solutions workable for all.
- If consensus is reached on a recommendation, it will be recorded in writing and OWRD will respond in writing by the following scheduled meeting. A record of recommendations and responses will be maintained by OWRD.
- If no consensus is reached on an issue, the meeting notes will so note without attributing comments to specific members. The notes will briefly describe the differing views, and note whether a majority held a particular position. Members will be invited to document dissenting opinions.

N. Final Groundwater Study. OWRD and the USGS will be responsible for producing the final groundwater study report and any information contained therein. The final groundwater study will be peer-reviewed. OWRD will provide the Committee a draft of the study for review and comment prior to publishing the final report consistent with OAR 690-512-0020.

O. Charter Revisions. This charter can be modified or revised by consensus by the Advisory Committee at any time.

***OAR 690-512-0020 (11)**

(11) The Department shall plan and conduct the study in coordination with a local Groundwater Study Advisory Committee (SAC) to be jointly appointed by the Department and the Harney County Court. The committee may include, but not be limited to: local irrigators, well drillers, irrigation/pump contractors, members of the scientific community, a representative of the Harney County Court, conservation and instream interests, and interested members of the public. The Department will work with the SAC and individual water users to encourage the collection and use of hydrogeologic data. As part of the study process, the Department shall review and consider relevant data provided by or through the Groundwater SAC. The Department shall report quarterly to the Groundwater SAC to provide updates on the study status, data analyses and preliminary findings, and shall collaborate with the SAC with regard to actions and decisions that may result from the study. The Department shall provide the SAC a draft of the groundwater study report for review and comment prior to publishing the final report. The final groundwater study report shall be peer-reviewed.

Versions

1	Original version adopted by consensus	January 19, 2017
2	Charlotte Roderique (Numu Allottee Association/Landowners) fills vacancy left by Dan Nichols (Local Landowner)	July 17, 2018
3		

Attachment 1. Groundwater Study Advisory Committee Members

Name	Affiliation
Allison Aldous	The Nature Conservancy
Angie Ketscher	Citizen Landowner
Brandon Haslick	Burns Paiute Tribe
Brenda Smith	High Desert Partnership
Charlotte Roderique	Numu Allottee Association
Erin Maupin	Resident Landowner
Fred Otley	Resident Landowner
Herb Vloedman	Resident Landowner
Gary Ball	US Fish and Wildlife Services
JR Johnson	Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
Karen Moon	Harney County Watershed Council
Mark Owens	County Court Landowner
Steve Rickman	Burns Electric Landowner
Tony Hackett	Downright Drilling
Wayne Evans	Resident Landowner

Attachment 2. Groundwater Study Team Members

Darrick Boschmann	Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
Jerry Grondin	OWRD
Justin Iverson	OWRD
Jordan Beamer	OWRD
Jonathan LaMarche	OWRD
Steve Gingerich	US Geological Survey (USGS)
Terrence Conlon	USGS
Hank Johnson	USGS
Esther Pischel	USGS
Amanda Garcia	USGS
Nick Dosch	USGS
Jason McClaughry	Department of Oregon Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)