



	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control (alternate)		
Laurie Crowe	South Yakima Conservation District	✓	
Rodney Heit	South Yakima Conservation District (alternate)		✓
John Van Wingerden III	Port of Sunnyside	✓	
Rand Elliott	Yakima County Board of Commissioners	✓	
Vern Redifer	Yakima County Board of Commissioners (alternate)		✓
Myers, Holly	Yakima Health District		✓
Ryan Ibach	Yakima Health District (alternate)		✓
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center		✓
Lucy Edmondson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		✓
Nick Peak	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchey	Yakama Nation		✓
Stuart Crane	Yakama Nation (alternate)		✓
Gary Bahr	WA Department of Agriculture	✓	
Perry Beale	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		✓
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	✓	
Sheryl Howe	WA Department of Health (alternate)		✓
David Bowen	WA Department of Ecology	✓	
Sage Park	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)		✓
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative	✓	
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		✓
Jessica Black	Heritage University	✓	
Alex Alexiades	Heritage University (alternate)		✓
Matt Bachmann	USGS		✓

15 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. Jim  
 16 reviewed the agenda – there were no additions. The group paused for a moment of silence.

17  
 18 **III. Active GWAC Members:** At the May 3 meeting, after coming up short of a quorum,  
 19 members had desired to discuss who was still an active member of the GWAC. David Bowen  
 20 had reviewed the attendance list in accordance with the GWAC’s operating guidelines,  
 21 which stated that if a member is not present for three consecutive meetings, the GWAC  
 22 membership can ask that member to be replaced with another representative for their  
 23 group, or removed from group membership altogether. As of the May 17 meeting, Dr. Troy  
 24 Peters was in this position.

25

26 Jim asked the group how they wished to proceed. Group members stated that they  
 27 appreciated Dr. Peters' expertise and wanted him to remain a member of the group, but  
 28 expressed concern that his absence was contributing to the GWAC being unable to take  
 29 action on matters before it. A member proposed that Dr. Peters be kept on as a non-voting  
 30 member. There was no objection from the group.

31

32 **IV. Action on Recommendations for Lead Agency:** Jim reintroduced the subject of who should  
 33 assume the role of lead entity once the GWMA's mandate had expired. In response to a  
 34 member's question at the last meeting regarding what WAC 173-100-100 said on the  
 35 matter, David Bowen replied that the WAC does not specifically mandate a lead agency, but  
 36 Section 6 does contain language that the GWMA's work plan shall contain an  
 37 implementation section containing a detailed work plan, a monitoring system, and a  
 38 process for periodic review of the work plan, which strongly implies the presence of a lead  
 39 entity in order to carry out that work.

40

41 A member asked if the new lead entity would be governed by the same rules of procedure  
 42 in the WAC, or whether the group would operate according to its own rules. Jim's  
 43 interpretation was the latter. There were various scenarios for how a lead entity could  
 44 operate, depending on who that entity was. If it was Yakima County, rules of procedure  
 45 would likely be included in the resolution setting up such an entity. If a state agency were to  
 46 become the lead entity, it would operate according to that agency's guidelines.  
 47 Commissioner Elliott had engaged in preliminary conversations with his fellow  
 48 commissioners about taking on the role of lead entity, and discovered a willingness to do  
 49 so, provided they understood what those responsibilities would entail. After some  
 50 discussion, a motion was made to recommend Yakima County as the lead entity to  
 51 implement the GWMA program. A vote was taken as follows:

52

53

**Ayes (14)**

54

Gary Bahr – WA Department of Agriculture

55

Dr. Jessica Black – Heritage University

56

David Bowen – WA Department of Ecology

57

Andy Cervantes – WA Department of Health

58

Ron Cowin – Roza-SVID Joint Board of Control

59

Laurie Crowe – South Yakima Conservation District

60

Jim Dyjak – Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation

61

Rand Elliott – Yakima County Commissioners

- 62 Lino Guerra – Latino Community Rep
- 63 Patricia Newhouse – Lower Valley Community Rep
- 64 Bud Rogers – Lower Valley Community Rep
- 65 Jason Sheehan – Yakima County Dairy Federation
- 66 Doug Simpson – Irrigated Ag Producer
- 67 John Van Wingerden – Port of Sunnyside

68

69 **Nays (1)**

- 70 Jean Mendoza – Friends of Toppenish Creek

71

72 **Present (1)**

- 73 Frank Lyall – Yakima County Farm Bureau

74

75 A member asked how long it would take for the Board of County Commissioners to get an  
76 answer back to the GWAC as to whether it accepted the group’s recommendation.

77 Commissioner Elliott replied that it would take a week.

78

79 **V. Results on Polling on Draft Recommendations:** At the May 3 meeting, Jim had asked  
80 members to rank the list of recommendations. Members’ votes had been tabulated into a  
81 spreadsheet, with most items scoring positive, and a few garnering negative scores.  
82 Nineteen members had responded total. In two cases, both the main representative of a  
83 group and their alternate had cast votes. Only the votes of the main representative were  
84 counted, leading to 17 votes total. The handouts provided at the meeting listed only the  
85 grand totals. Some members expressed a desire to see the individual votes, and it was  
86 eventually decided to supply the list. (See attached appendix.) The group also decided that  
87 votes cast at the meeting would be recorded in the meeting summary.

88

89 Discussion ensued as to the reasons individual members had for casting votes. In some  
90 cases, members had voted negative because they disagreed with the way the  
91 recommendation was written, or because the recommended activities were already being  
92 done. One example was the recommendation to distribute educational materials about  
93 cleaning septic systems, which are already posted online by the Yakima Health District and  
94 the Washington Department of Health. Other members believed that a more aggressive  
95 outreach campaign was in fact necessary, since many families on septic systems in rural  
96 areas don’t have internet access, or the knowledge of where to look for this information.

97

98 There was further discussion on which positive-scored items the group should recommend.  
 99 Some members felt that everything with a positive score should be recommended, and  
 100 prioritized according to their scores. Other members felt that low-scoring positive items did  
 101 not enjoy consensus, and should be dropped from the list, with only high-scoring positive  
 102 items recommended. A motion was eventually made to recommend all positive-scored  
 103 items, prioritized according to their scores. The vote was as follows:

104

105

**Ayes (12)**

106

Gary Bahr – WA Department of Agriculture

107

Dr. Jessica Black – Heritage University

108

Andy Cervantes – WA Department of Health

109

Ron Cowin – Roza-SVID Joint Board of Control

110

Laurie Crowe – South Yakima Conservation District

111

Rand Elliott – Yakima County Commissioners

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Lino Guerra – Latino Community Rep

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Patricia Newhouse – Lower Valley Community Rep

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Bud Rogers – Lower Valley Community Rep

115

Jason Sheehan – Yakima County Dairy Federation

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Doug Simpson – Irrigated Ag Producer

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John Van Wingerden – Port of Sunnyside

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119

**Nays (3)**

120

Jim Dyjak – Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation

121

Frank Lyall – Yakima County Farm Bureau

122

Jean Mendoza – Friends of Toppenish Creek

123

124

**Present (1)**

125

David Bowen – WA Department of Ecology

126

127 **VI. Reasonable Annual Groundwater Recharge Estimates:** At the May 3 meeting, Jim had  
 128 distributed a map of the GWMA showing the mean annual recharge of water based on  
 129 numbers contained in a 2007 USGS report. Some members felt the map exaggerated the  
 130 amount of water going into the ground. The Joint Board of Control figures showed that the  
 131 average farmer was using 3.5 acre-feet of water per-year. In correspondence between Jim  
 132 and Matt Bachmann, Matt had agreed that there were a number of variables that could  
 133 impact the recharge numbers – for example, changing crop types, irrigation practices and

134 climate conditions – and felt that an updated study might be a worthwhile project,  
135 assuming the GWMA was willing to spend the time or funds on it. A couple of members  
136 expressed a desire to follow up on an updated report. Other members were reluctant to  
137 make a recommendation on the spot.

138

139 **Committee Business:** The May 3, 2018 meeting summary was approved as presented.

140

141 **VII. Public Comment:** There was no public comment, although a group member distributed an  
142 analysis he had performed comparing the storage capacity of septic systems vs. lagoons and  
143 settling ponds by gallons of liquid fecal matter. He felt that the septic and point-source  
144 maps distributed at the May 3 meeting should attempt to display the difference in volume.

145

146 **VIII. Next Meeting:** June 21, 2018.

147

148 **IX. Next Steps:** 1) Rand Elliott will present his fellow commissioners with the GWAC's  
149 recommendation that Yakima County should assume the role of lead entity, with the  
150 responsibility of implementing the GWMA's work plan. 2) Jim Davenport will continue to  
151 work on the GWMA program, with discussion planned for June 21.

152

153 **X. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on August 9, 2018.