

Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

A discussion of timelines and details regarding the Nitrate Loading Assessment

Working Group Members

Kirk Cook (Chair); Andres Cervantes; Bill Dunbar; Bob Stevens; Charles Ellingson; Charlie McKinney; Chelsea Durfey; Dave Cowan; Donald Brown; Doug Simpson; Elizabeth Sanchez; Eric Winiecki; Frank Lyall; Ginny Stern; Jaclyn Hancock; Jan Whitefoot; Jean Mendoza; Jennifer MacDonald; Jim Trull; John Van Wingerden, Kevin Lindsey; Laurie Crowe; Lino Guerra; Melanie Redding; Mike Shuttleworth; Ralph Fisher; René Fuentes; Robert Farrell; Ron Cowin, Scott Stephen; Sheila Fleming; Steve Swope; Stuart Turner; Thomas Tebb; Dr. Troy Peters

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call Number: 509-574-2353 pin: 2353#

Participants

Present: Kirk Cook (Chair), Jean Mendoza, Charlie McKinney, Vern Redifer, Mike Martian, Lee Murdock, Andy Cervantes, Jaclyn Hancock, Laurie Crowe*, Ginny Stern*, and Erica Naasz (Yakima County Support Staff)

*via phone

Key Discussion Points

- USGS Letter
- Nitrogen Loading Assessment
- Septic System leachate methodology
- GWAC Timeline
- Ambient Groundwater Monitoring System

Welcome and Overview

Lee welcomed the group, no additions to the agenda were requested.

USGS Letter

The letter addressed to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), was emailed to the group prior to the meeting. The USGS letter is an informational request to the USGS for future opportunities for collaboration between the GWAC and the USGS regarding the analysis of Nitrate Tracking. The group approved that it be sent out as it was merely a request for information and did not commit the GWAC in any way.

Nitrogen Loading Assessment

Kirk has presented the initial results of the Livestock Loading Assessment which identified the acreage for Corral/Pens (1,841 acres), compost (346 acres) and Lagoons and Storage Ponds (155 acres). The acreage was determined by using aerial photography which had been digitized to identify these components in the Groundwater Management Area. The next step in the process is to look at a variety of methodologies to determine nitrogen loading for each of these components.

These methodologies will be presented to the GWAC on June 18. A few of these include the USGS, Department of Ecology, Darcie's Law, and Herd and Herd density methodologies. The data group will review these at the next meeting and form a recommendation to the GWAC.

Kirk also presented this information to the CAFO/Livestock group which expressed an interest in hiring a consultant to determine the best methodology to use. Kirk expressed a concern that a consultant would review the same materials that his staff was using and could potentially slow down the project and be a waste of funds. It was recommended that the next Data Work Group meeting be combined with Livestock/CAFO so all parties could share in the discussion prior to the next GWAC meeting.

Septic system leachate methodology

Unfortunately Melanie Redding was not available to attend the meeting to present on the septic system leachate methodology. Kirk announced that he had a conversation with Melanie Redding, who provided the results of her extensive literature search. This methodology would be used in conjunction with the septic system maps produced by Yakima County GIS. Yakima County will need to review and agree with the equation before they use it to estimate nitrogen loading from septic systems. The copy of the GIS layer showing the septic systems in Yakima County will be emailed out to the group.

GWAC Timeline

The Nitrogen Assessment has been extended in relation to the second round of deep soil sampling. The new date is April 2016.

Ambient Groundwater Monitoring System

Vern announced that more work was needed to clarify the exact product the group needs from PGG to develop the ambient groundwater monitoring system that the group agreed upon earlier in the year. Next steps include having a discussion with Melanie and Tom with the Department of Ecology.

Resources Requested

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Recommendations for GWAC

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Deliverables/Products Status

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Proposed Next Steps

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