

Irrigated Ag Working Group (IAWG)

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Jim Trull (GWAC-Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control), Bob Stevens (interested party) Bud Rogers (GWAC-Citizen), Chelsea Durfey (GWAC), Dan McCarty (interested party), Dave Cowan (interested party), Dave Fraser (Interested Party - Simplot Agronomist), Donald Jameson (interested party), Doug Simpson (GWAC-Farmer), Frank Lyall (GWAC-Farm Bureau), Ginny Prest (GWAC-Dept. of Ag), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Newhouse (GWAC), Kevin Lindsey (interested party), Kirk Cook (GWAC-WSDA), Laurie Crowe (GWAC-South Yakima Conservation District), Melanie Redding (Ecology), Mike Shuttleworth (interested party), Ralph Fisher (EPA), Ron Cowin (GWAC-SVID), Scott Stephen (interested party), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co.), Tom Tebb (GWAC-Department of Ecology), Rosalio Brambila (interested party), Dr. Troy Peters (GWAC-WSU); Vern Redifer, Jim Davenport.

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Office, 120 S. Eleventh Street, Sunnyside

When: September 17, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Call: (509) 574-2353 – Pin # 2353

Participants

Jim Trull (Chair), Anthony Dorsett, Dan McCarty, Doug Simpson, Frank Lyall, James Rivard, Jean Mendoza, Jim Davenport, Kathleen Rogers, Perry Beale, and Greta Smith (Yakima County)

*via telephone

Key Discussion Points

1. Report on Fall Deep Soil Sampling (DSS).

Laurie C. was not able to attend this meeting, so the report of the DSS has been postponed. Jim T. did state that DDS have started and 60 participants are expected.

2. Discussion and response to questions and observation on first two round of Deep Soil Sampling.

Jean M. reviewed her take on the sample information which has been provided to date. Her list of questions, which were specific to sample number, was reviewed and discussed with the group. Jean was able to note some areas of questionable data which will need to be looked into. Since

Laurie was unable to attend the meeting some of the questions were left for her to respond to as well.

In addition, Jean had concerns that some of the representative samples are not useful, not a fair representative and that we need to be careful of the samples taken because we need to use the money wisely.

Jim T. stated that he felt that it is very unlikely there will be a statistically valid number of samples across the whole range of parameters the samples have been received on a voluntary bases. The IAWG will still be able to learn from the information they are receiving and since the process has started, it is too late to change the process.

Many members in attendance felt that the sampling process is providing information not previously available. Now a baseline can be established that is specific to the GWMA area. It is gathered strictly on a volunteer basis.

Jean expressed her concerns with concerns with quantitative versus qualitative data. She suggested that a statistician review the numbers.

A member mentioned his concerns with targeting crops and how we could potentially lose credibility with farmers if that is done.

Jim T. stated that he feels with the samples received it shows that many farmers are doing the things right and that with the data received the opportunity for education and incentives will be able to help those who need it.

3. Review of Revised Spreadsheet for Nitrogen Loading

Jim T. reported that there is not much data at this time to report on. He did make the suggested changes to the spreadsheet. The word typical was added to the heading of column 4. He added a new column which is titled “nitrogen update in plant in growing cycle”. Another new column was added, “Nitrogen Uptake in Plant Growing Cycle”. In the areas where the column fields are blank, he is still waiting data to enter there. The numbers for acres still need to be tweaked. Jim T. would still like to hear from anyone who has any numbers to add or change for any of these columns for him so he can update and make more accurate. The updated spreadsheet is attached to this meeting summary.

4. Other Business

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Resources Requested

- N/A

Recommendations for GWAC

- N/A

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposed Next Steps
