

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Discussion of data sources and remaining Work Plan Items

Working Group Members

Charlie McKinney, Chair (Department of Ecology), Kirk Cook (Department of Agriculture), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Sue Wedam (LV Community Rep.), Patricia Newhouse (Community Rep Position #2), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama reservation)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2015 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Participants

Charlie McKinney (Dept. of Ecology), Sue Wedam (LV Community Rep.), Jean Mendoza (FOTC), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Fed.), Jim Davenport (for Yakima Co.), Larry Fendell, (Public), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation), Lino Guerra (Hispanic Community Representative)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome and Meeting Overview: Charlie McKinney welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the evening, stating that the order of the agenda will be changed, moving the review of the GWMA Project Timeline to the end.

Charlie shared with the group the information Kirk Cook provided at the Data Working Group meeting which was held earlier in the day. Kirk spoke of the Nitrogen Loading Study and how the work of this Livestock/CAFO group will help inform the study. This study will start with the animal/dairy assessments looking at lagoons, pens and storage areas. They will look at the size of the areas with aerial photography and determine calculations from that information. Stuart Turner offered additional information about the assessments stating that assessments have already started and will continue until every dairy in the GWMA area has been assessed. The assessors will be walking the perimeter gathering a great amount of details noting pipes, erosion, concrete, etc. This on-site information will be combined with aerial photography to determine sizes and basic characteristics.

After a discussion about what this Working Group as a whole is able to offer information on, it was determined that it would be best to look into hiring a technical expert to conduct the literature review and to help assess the data to determine what is most relevant. The group agreed that there is not enough time at this point to review studies and come up with the most accurate

factors for the Nitrogen Loading Study. It would be beneficial to hire an expert and have a session with him where this group can meet and review and ask questions of the expert to make sure they are pulling all the relevant information that will best fit this region.

Action: Members are to submit to Charlie a list of names and qualifications of the experts they feel would be good to seek further technical information from by Friday, April 17, 2015. This list of names will be discussed and narrowed down at the next monthly meeting. The working group would like to identify the best candidate and forward their recommendation for the GWAC's consideration at its June meeting.

Review of GWMA Project Timeline:

Problem Definition/Nitrogen Loading Lines 104 and 105:

The group recommended extending the deadlines for 6.1 - Conduct literature review and 6.2 - Conduct evaluation of manure generation - to the first quarter of 2016.

The group also recommended extending the deadline for Developing [the] Nitrogen Loading Estimate for Livestock Properties (line 115) -to January 1, 2016.

In looking at the requirements for the timeline, it appears that once the working group has met with an expert they will have a better ability to prepare information needed.

Miscellaneous:

Jim Dyjak requested that emails be sent out well in advance (not same day as the meeting) as many people are in the field that day and won't have time to see or review the notes before the meeting.

Resources Requested

None at this time. Budget requests may ultimately be submitted to cover cost of hiring an expert for a day study session.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposed Next Steps

Next meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2015, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Radio KDNA in Granger - POSTPONED