

[Education and Public Outreach]

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Elizabeth Torres (Citizen), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Nieves Negrete (Citizen), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Dean Effler (Citizen), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co), Ignacio Marquez (AGR), Jessica Black (GWAC); Lisa Freund (Yakima County-Chair)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants

Lisa Freund (Chair-Yakima County), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Jim Davenport (Yakima County) *Gretchen Stewart (EPA), *Jessica Black (GWAC), *Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), *Ignacio Marquez (AGR), *Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Lee Murdock, Karri Espinoza (Yakima County)

*Via phone

Key Discussion Points

Phase 2 High Risk Well Assessment Survey Update – Lisa Freund

Lisa reviewed the Well Assessment Survey Test Results handout presented to the GWAC at its February meeting. Since Phase I surveying began in 2014, a total of 288 wells have been tested for nitrate & bacteria and the results entered in the County's database. Due to strong demand in Phase II, the contract with the Yakima Health District was amended to allow for an additional 80 surveys (up from the original 200). The deadline to participate was also extended from February 29 to March 31. A news release announcing the deadline extension was issued on March 1, 2016 and received newspaper and TV coverage. Results letters are being sent out monthly.

As of this date, 248 Phase II surveys have either been completed or are in process. This brings the grand total (Phase I and II combined) to 419 surveys.

By the end of April all of the surveys should be electronically entered into the database and the remaining results sent to participating households. In May the data will be analyzed and results shared with EPO and GWAC.

Phase II Outreach

On February 19, Andy Cervantes and Ignacio Marquez participated in a one-hour Radio KDNA public affairs program to talk about the survey. They felt it went well. They had one person call in and he was advised to call the Health District and get his well sampled. Ignacio shared that the interviewer, although not as knowledgeable as the previous interviewer, asked good questions and a lot of information was shared.

It was agreed that once the March 31 survey deadline passes, the message needs to change from “get your well tested” to “you need to maintain your system, keep good well logs, and continue testing your well once a year.”

Jim Davenport inquired whether well depth to water level information was obtained from the surveys. It was not. However, Andy Cervantes noted that there may be equipment or training available for the Yakima County Public Services to perform static water level tests on their water systems. He added that it’s best to locate and target wells in the GWMA area, where information is not readily available. In response to a question from Jim Davenport about well (selection/information), it is best to locate wells of varying depths, better with well logs or construction information, to get data on Nitrate level versus static water level.

Lisa shared that she received a call from a resident in the lower valley who is interested in participating in long term well testing. She also received a call from a resident south of Mabton who has had his well sampled three times since 1988. The resident is willing to talk to other working groups if asked.

ACTION: Lisa will provide a summary report of Phase II by the end of May 2016

Traveling Booth Recommendation - Gretchen Stewart, Ignacio Marquez, Pat Newhouse

The *ad hoc* group had met regarding the traveling booth and presented a menu of options for the EPO’s consideration.

A discussion took place as to what that booth would look like, what information (messaging) it would share, where it would be displayed and who would volunteer to man the booth.

Some of the ideas were:

| <u>Locations:</u> | <u>Content:</u> | <u>Volunteers:</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Health Fairs | Prevention Information | EPO Members |
| Libraries | Participation Information | Other Working Groups |
| Schools | Protection Information | Self Information Booth |

Community Events

EPO Members

Gretchen shared the quotes that the *ad hoc* committee developed. Lee Murdock noted that some of the menu options could be produced by the Yakima County Printing department (e.g., Velcro 72"x36" display board for \$140 and photos/materials for \$25 each). The design of the materials will still need to be outsourced.

Jim suggested that a list should be prepared of which events the display would be used at, what materials would be needed and how many volunteers are willing to support this type of outreach. This would help in making a decision as to whether the display board is a good way to use resources.

Another member suggested involving other working groups to help participate at the events.

It was agreed by all that it would be best to have all members of the EPO in one room to discuss and make decisions regarding the traveling booth.

ACTION:

Gretchen offered to create a list of upcoming community events and locations where the display board could be set up. The list will include a column for volunteers to sign up to man the booth.

Gretchen will forward the list to Lisa for EPO distribution and for volunteer sign up.

Lisa will send the completed list to EPO members asking for volunteers.

Lisa will send out a doodle poll to identify potential meeting dates where everyone could be in the same room to discuss the traveling booth concept.

Resources Requested

- None

Recommendations for GWAC

- None

Deliverables/Products Status

- Create a summary report of the Phase II Well Assessment Survey by the end of May 2016

Proposed Next Steps

- Create a list of upcoming community events and distribute to the EPO for volunteer sign up.
- Determine traveling booth components based on event and volunteer staffing list.
- Identify date/time for an EPO meeting where participants can attend in person.