

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Discussion of data sources and remaining Work Plan Items

Working Group Members

David Bowen, Chair (Department of Ecology), Gary Bahr (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, October 6, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Participants

David Bowen, Jim Dyjak, Jean Mendoza, Steve George, Larry Fendell, Sandy Braden, Sue Wedam, Kathleen Rogers, Bud Rogers, Michelle Burkhart, Vern Redifer and Bobbie Brady (Yakima County Support Services).

Key Discussion Points

Chair David Bowen opened the meeting at 5:06 PM. He reviewed the Committee Operating Guideline Ground Rules with the group and highlighted in particular the last item “speak from interests not positions.” When asked, several members felt this meant the group should focus on their mandate to clean up groundwater rather than be entrenched in their own interests.

BMP Discussion: Before proceeding with the discussion David stated that his understanding was that the group was to focus on pens, corrals, lagoons/ponds, composting, feed storage and animal mortality operations. The group agreed. A member noted that WSU had a recommendation guideline that is regularly followed pertaining to animal mortality and suggested the group consider it when addressing the topic. Another member thought there was an RCW that pertained to bovine/equine composting as well.

David asked the group to look at the NRCS Standards Relevant to LYV GWMA Livestock/CAFO Work Group handout he had provided to the group prior to the meeting. David noted that Stu Turner, Laurie Crowe and Ginny Prest had helped him put the list together. He explained that it was his goal to provide as many standards as possible so that people could pick and choose what would work on their land as all standards won’t apply to everyone.

The group began its review of the list and discussed each standard. Vern reminded the group that any standards remaining on the list could be reviewed in more detail at a later date and any items removed should be those standards specifically not applicable to protecting the groundwater in pens, corrals, lagoons/ponds, composting, feed storage and animal mortality operations. It was the group's consensus that the following standards be removed: Nos. 560, 310, 356, 554, 432, 375, 373, 382, 410, 412, 516, 484, 582, 378, 345, 570, 350, 570, 587, 606, and 614.

The group also discussed how to handle the standards they believed should be added to this abbreviated list, i.e., those relating to silage. Jim Dyjak volunteered to compile a list and respond back to the group within the next two weeks. David's goal was to try to complete this discussion via email prior to next month's meeting. David will also email Stu Turner to find out if it is important for the group to exclusively consider Washington State standards or if standards from other states could be utilized.

Finally, the group discussed its meeting schedule for 2017. The group agreed to schedule meetings for each month in 2017 with the thought that meetings could be cancelled on a month-by-month basis if they were deemed unnecessary. David added that at the next month's meeting it was his goal to work on the regulatory piece specifically identifying gaps and a means to fill them. His desire was to complete this work at the November and December working group meetings so that the group's recommendations could be submitted to the GWAC at its December meeting.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 3, 2016, 5:00-7:00 PM.

Resources Requested

Recommendations for GWAC

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposed Next Steps

- Jim Dyjak volunteered to provide the group with a list of other standards that might need to be added to the list the group had already compiled.
- David will email Stu Turner to find out if standards from other states could be considered by the group.