

Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Kirk Cook - Chair (Dept of Ag), Andres Cervantes (Dept of Health), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Jan Whitefoot (CCYR), Jim Trull (SVID), Kevin Lindsey (GSI - Consultant), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Lonna Frans (USGS), Matt Bachmann (USGS), Lorraine Edmond (Citizen), Mark Nielson (Benton County Conservation District), Steve Swope (PGG - Consultant), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co.), Thomas Tebb (Dept of Ecology)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Conference Call: 1:00 PM – 3:00PM, Thursday, September 4, 2014

Call Number: 509.574.2353 PIN# 2353

Participants

Kirk Cook, Bob Farrell, Tom Eaton, Jacqueline Hancock & Ginny Stern via Phone, Charlie McKinney, Jim Davenport, Yakima County staff support - Don Gatchalian, Lee Murdock, Mary Wurtz and Kelly Rae

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview:

Kirk welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda: (a) Outstanding items or questions, (b) Budget submitted at the last GWAC meeting, and (c) Draft scope of work for nitrate loading assessment.

Outstanding Items or Questions:

The following are questions received by either Jim or Kirk prior to the meeting:

- a. Is the data collected from the dairy cluster relevant and what role does the Data Working Group have in reviewing the data? Consensus from the group is the information is relevant and can be used in building the nitrate database.
- b. There was a question on how the quality of the data collection is assured. The response was EPA and Ecology have certain protocol on how data is obtained based on established standards. It is called Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Guidance. Tom mentioned the consultants, hired by the dairies to collect data, are following QAPP.

- c. Would the question on the data quality need to go before GWAC? The response was the technical discussion should be conducted within the working group. Quality of data is already required using QAPP Guidance.
- d. Jim received an email from Laurie Crowe of South Yakima Conservation District concerning the Deep Soil Sampling Plan implementation. She wanted to know (i) where the database is for the deep soil sampling plan, and (ii) where the location of the information will be kept for volunteers to view their sample results.

ACTION: Jim will get clarification from Laurie and contact appropriate people for response.

Budget from Last GWAC Meeting

The group discussed whether they want to change or modify the budget submitted based on the discussion at the last GWAC meeting. Kirk added that he has until Friday, September 12th to submit any budget request changes to Vern.

ACTION: Budget alterations should be submitted to Vern before Friday, September 12th.

Draft Scope of Work for Nitrate Loading Assessment

Kirk presented an in-depth briefing of the Scope of Work submittal that was alluded to at the August GWAC Meeting. He drafted the scope of work incorporating responses from the consultant's draft scope of work. The overall concept is instead of having a consultant do the work, the Nitrogen Loading Assessment will be a cooperative project between Yakima County and the WA Department of Agriculture staff. The working group went through the different sections of the draft scope of work. Kirk will incorporate the comments and encouraged other members to send comments by email to him by Friday, September 12. Kirk is planning to present this to GWAC at the October meeting since the meeting in September is focused on GWAC Budget items.

ACTION: Kirk will update the draft Scope of Work and send to the working group for review. Kirk's goal is to have this document ready for presentation to GWAC during the October meeting.

There was discussion that this scope is high-level using information already available and new information from budgeted work such as deep soil sampling information. If GWAC wants a more detailed nitrate loading study then the budget needs to be revised. However, information obtained from the nitrate loading study will be used by GWAC in future direction and/or decision.

ACTION: Kirk and Lee will arrange a time to meet within the next two weeks to work on the scope of work.

ACTION: Data Working Group members to provide comments to Kirk by Friday, September 12. An edited version of the SOW will be presented incorporating comments from members before the October GWMA meeting.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

- Kirk will revise the scope of work based on comments received to date and until Friday, September 12
- An edited version of the SOW will be presented before the October GWMA meeting.
- Budget alterations should be submitted to Vern before Friday, September 12th.

Proposed Next Steps

- Data committee to review the QAPP to make sure it is consistent before presentation to GWAC.