

Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring Work Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Compile and Manage Data

Working Group Members

Kirk Cook (Chair); Andres Cervantes; Jan Whitefoot; Jim Trull; Kevin Lindsey; Laurie Crowe; Steve Swope; Stuart Turner; Thomas Tebb; Melanie Redding

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Conference Call: 509-574-2353 PIN 2353#

Participants

Present: Jim Dyjak; Larry Fendell; Jean Mendoza; and Kate Prengaman with the Yakima-Herald Republic; Yakima County staff support – Jim Davenport and Kelly Rae

Present via Conference call: Kirk Cook (Chair); Melanie Redding; Laurie Crowe

Agenda

1. Approval of the DRAFT Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work and Budget to be presented at the December GWAC Meeting.

Jim Davenport facilitated the meeting.

“Second Opinion and Critique of the Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work” by Jean Mendoza. Jim stated that he'd spoken with Jean Mendoza since the November meeting and asked if her concerns had been addressed regarding presenting the above-referenced report in Kirk Cook's letter dated November 21, 2014. She responded that she still had questions and handed out a 7 page document titled ***“Second Opinion and Critique of the Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work”*** that she had written.

The group went over Jean Mendoza's concerns.

Jean felt that “consistently” on page three of the Draft Assessment should be removed.

ACTION: Kirk will remove the word “consistently” on page three of the DRAFT Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work and Budget.

It was decided that if there were any lagoons being decommissioned during the study, they would be included in the assessment. Kirk Cook added that the assessment cannot look at every particle as that would be very costly.

It was stated that climate should be considered in the assessment. Kirk replied that the climate is outside the scope of work.

A member stated more money needs to be put into the budget. Jim replied that the project budget has been approved. A member didn't believe the budget for reviewing literature was realistic and needed to be increased. The member handed Jim three pages of references and abstracts from when the member studied lagoons. The member further stated that there was no funding for a number of other activities. Kirk replied that all of her concerns were noted.

A member brought up that the dairymen on CAFO said that no one would be stepping on their property so does that mean it would be a literature review. Kirk replied yes as there will be instances where we have to defer to published data. There will be a mixture but the Scope of Work will be more refined than the EPA's assessment. Kirk added that when necessary, we will check with the experts.

A member stated that the Deep Soil Sampling would not be complete until 2016. If the group compares the projections to samplings, there won't be results until late 2016. Kirk responded that he intends to have it done by October/November 2015. He explained that this is a living document and that there is no reason to stall. He's reluctant to hold this up for the Deep Soil Sampling and stated the group can make revisions as more data becomes available.

The same member mentioned Rules of Sunnyside Water Irrigation: 1997-2008 that they had. Another member commented that there is new data and that contact with Jim Trull should be made to get the more current.

This member stated that they do not want to see the Draft Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment just one week before it's to be presented to the GWAC. Jim asked if we could get the reviewed literature listed and identified for the project. Kirk answered that the project will have a bibliography in it.

A member suggested that the nitrogen loading assessment may need to be enhanced and wondered if that will lead to other work that will need to be done and if it will impact the cost. Kirk answered that it was a fairly minimal amount of money and that the Department of Agriculture would commit.

Jim added that Vern budgeted for long term (specific wells) \$395k which is protected. We want to know the nitrogen loading and then refine with a higher level of specificity and how to improve water quality. Jean agreed and added that there would be a need to be onsite for testing. Jim responded that once the model exists, we can then ask questions to hypothesize in a model-predictive way and that will be a broad determination.

Jim polled the group regarding if they felt DRAFT Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work and Budget was ready to be presented at the December GWAC Meeting. All but one indicated approval.

ACTION: DRAFT Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work and Budget will be presented at the December GWAC meeting on December 18, 2014.

Resources Requested

- None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

- None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

- None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

- Presentation of the DRAFT Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area - Scope of Work and Budget

Next Meeting:

- To be determined.