

## **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 Whitetfoot (CCYR), Jim Trull (SVID), Kevin Lindsey (GSI - Consultant), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Lonna Frans (USGS), Matt Buchman (USGS), Lorraine Edmond (Citizen), Mark Nielson (Benton County Conservation District), Steve Swope (PGG - Consultant), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co.), Thomas Tebb (Dept of Ecology), Ali Sedighi (Yakima County)

#### **Meetings/Calls Dates**

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Conference Call: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Thursday, June 6, 2013

#### **Participants**

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Kirk Cook, Jean Mendoza, Kevin Lindsey, Ginny Stern, Pony Ellington, Andy Cervantes, Joye Redfield-Wilder, Melanie Redding, Don Gatchalian

#### **Key Discussion Points**

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Agenda:

- Review of Tuesday's (June 4, 2013) Consultant Selection Committee Interviews
- Coordination between Yakima characterization work and that being conducted as part of the EPA consent Order
- Quality assurance requirements (Ecology) for all data collected as part of the LYV GWMA effort
- Interface with Irrigated Agriculture Work Group
- Other topics

#### *Review of Tuesday's (June 4, 2013) Consultant Selection Committee Interviews*

HDR, Inc was selected by the Consultant Selection Committee to do the two Scopes of Work, i.e., Scope of Work No. 1 Nitrate Regulatory Framework and Best Management Practices, and Scope of Work No. 2 is Initial Characterization Assessment and Data Management Plan. Yakima County contract process was explained and to have signed agreement with HDR, Inc. by June 25<sup>th</sup>. Pacific Groundwater Group is HDR's sub-consultant.

*Coordination between Yakima characterization work and that being conducted as part of the EPA Consent Order*

The Work Group discussed how the data collected from EPA Consent Order will be incorporated in Yakima County nitrate database. The information needs to be included in the database and is something that the consultant will do as part of accomplishing Scope of Work # 2 – Initial Characterization Assessment and Data Management Plan. The Farm Bureau has its own hydrogeologist consultant, and the five dairies in the EPA Consent Order has its own hydrogeologist. The information collected needs to be included in the Yakima County database.

*Quality assurance requirements (Ecology) for all data collected as part of the LYV GWMA effort*

The data collected as part of the technical work for the GWMA has to meet Department of Ecology QA/QC requirement. It was agreed that collecting nitrate information is the primary purpose of data collection but there should be some discussion on what to do with other information collected. Quality assurance is important and there is a need to determine how to qualify data and to explain if data is not meeting requirement.

*Interface with Irrigated Agriculture Work Group*

It was discussed that should Department of Ecology decide to honor Benton County's request to be excused from GWAC, Benton County Conservation District would also request to be excused. Due to the importance of this Work Group to the Data Collection and Monitoring, selection of a Chair for this workgroup needs to happen as soon as possible.

*Other Topics*

- Residential, Commercial and Industrial (RCI) Work Group has a volunteer Chair and will be discussed during the June 20<sup>th</sup> GWAC meeting. The Work Group's effort is important to complete "sources of nitrate" information.
- There was discussion about dairy lagoons and how that will be addressed. This will be part of HDR's tasks to determine regulatory and BMP gaps (Scope of Work No. 1).
- Pony of PGG shared a brief overview on how PGG will accomplish Scope of Work No. 2 - Initial Characterization Assessment and Data Management Plan
- Deep Soil Sampling was also brought up and Work Group's understanding was this work would be performed by Benton County Conservation District. The Work Group would like to know if BCCD is still going to do this work if they are excused from GWAC participation.
- There was discussion of using Heritage University to assist the GWAC conduct Survey No. 2 – Public Questionnaire.

**Resources Requested**

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None at this time

**Recommendations for GWAC**

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None at this time

**Deliverables/Products Status**

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None at this time

**Proposed Next Steps**

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- The Work Group would like to meet with HDR and PGG once the contract is in place. This may occur either during the July or August Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring Work Group meeting.
- The Work Group is looking forward to the Residential, Commercial and Industrial Work Group assistance and information
- The Work Group needs to schedule the July and August meetings, and to decide whether to do it by conference calls or meeting at KDNA Granger with the consultant