

## Livestock-CAFO Working Group

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

#### Working Group Members

Charlie McKinney, Chair (Department of Ecology), Kirk Cook (Department of Agriculture), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Helen Reddout (CARE), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Patricia Newhouse (Citizen), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.), Ali Sedighi (Yakima County Staff Support, non-member)

#### Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 2013

#### **Participants**

Charlie McKinney (Dept of Ecology), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Lino Guerra, (Hispanic Community Representative), Jack Barbash (USGS), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation), Larry Fendell (Citizen), Pat Newhouse (Citizen) Dr. Sue Wedam (Citizen) Doug Moore (Sunnyside Citizen), Genny DeRuyter (Citizen), Mike Murray (HDR), Pony Ellingson (PGG), Lisa Freund, (Yakima County Staff)

#### Key Discussion Points

The \$1.6 million GWMA allocation from the 2013 Legislature:

- What are the constraints on the new funds? Need clarification of funding at the next GWAC meeting.

Discussed tonight's HDR/PGG presentation focusing on the soil sampling (why, where, how many samples needed for statistical significance).

- 20 locations for soil sampling is not sufficient. (Response: this is a pilot only)
- Let's ask for an expansion of the soil sampling project. This will provide immediate information on the effectiveness of current practices. It's possible that newer farming practices, implemented over the last 20 years, have already resolved some of the nitrate issues.
- Discussed protocols for water and soil sampling. USGS pointed out that there is no "clean" answer for determining the sample numbers needed for statistical significance. How do we determine how many samples we need?

- First, we need to identify what we want out of the soil sampling study; that drives what type of sampling we want and how it will be done. We need a discussion with the Irrigated Ag working group as they may be seeking the same information.

#### Columbia Basin GWMA Project Sampling:

- Pony Ellingson of PGG explained the sampling conducted in the Columbia Basin GWMA project. They did 76 samples, then wrote a sampling plan. They budgeted \$100,000 for each of five years to fund sampling. They invited growers, et al. to participate; had tremendous interest. 600-700 fields were targeted, they ensured that samples followed protocols. They opted not to make the information public; rather it was used as an educational tool.

Indexing is a potential tool for soil susceptibility. Susceptibility involves many factors; you need to define your purpose.

When all is said and done, we need to ensure we covered our bases; we need to figure out what it is we want then we can ask the questions.

Discussed how to prioritize deep soil sampling. Columbia Basin's priority was to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs, not to identify the source of the problem.

Mike Murray of HDR queried the group: What is your purpose -- to find the bad guys? Or determine effectiveness of BMPs?

#### **Resources Requested**

Additional funding for soil sampling (placeholder; future request)

#### **Recommendations for GWAC**

---

None at this time

#### **Deliverables/Products Status**

---

None at this time

#### **Proposed Next Steps**

---

Request clarification of new funds (\$1.6 million), and any constraints, at next GWAC meeting.

Identify desired outcomes of the sampling study, which will determine what type of sampling is needed and how it will be done.

Coordinate with Irrigated Ag Work Group (re: soil sampling); they may be seeking the same information.