

LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Radio KDNA
 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932

I. Call to Order

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Penny Mabie, Facilitator.

Member	Seat	Present	Absent
Stuart Turner	Agronomist, Turner and Co.	P	
Chelsey Durfey	Agronomist, Turner and Co. (alternate)	P	
Helen Reddout	Community Association for Restoration of the Environment		P
Wendell Hannigan	Community Association for Restoration of the Environment (alternate)		P
Kathleen Rogers	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 1		P
Bud Rogers	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 1 (alternate)	P	
Patricia Newhouse	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 2	P	
Sue Wedam	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 2 (alternate)	P	
Doug Simpson	Irrigated Crop Producer		P
Jean Mendoza	Friends of Toppenish Creek	P	
Eric Anderson	Friends of Toppenish Creek (alternate)		P
Jan Whitefoot	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation		P
Jim Dyjak	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation (alternate)	P	
Steve George	Yakima County Farm Bureau	P	
Justin Waddington	Yakima County Farm Bureau (alternate)		P
Jason Sheehan	Yakima Dairy Federation		P
Dan DeGroot	Yakima Dairy Federation (alternate)	P	
Jim Trull	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control	P	
Ron Cowin	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control (alternate)		P
Laurie Crowe	South Yakima Conservation District	P	

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Jim Newhouse	South Yakima Conservation District (alternate)		P
Robert Farrell	Port of Sunnyside	P	
John Van Wingerden	Port of Sunnyside (alternate)	P	
Rand Elliott	Yakima County Board of Commissioners		P
Vern Redifer	Yakima County Board of Commissioners (alternate)	P	
Gordon Kelly	Yakima County Health District	P	
Dr. Kefy Desta	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center		P
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (alternate)	P	
Tom Eaton	U.S. EPA	*P	
Marie Jennings	U.S. EPA (alternate)		P
Elizabeth Sanchey	Yakama Nation		P
Tom Ring	Yakama Nation (alternate)		P
Lonna Frans	U.S. Geological Survey		P
Matt Bachmann	U.S. Geologic Survey (alternate)		P
Kirk Cook	WA Department of Agriculture	*P	
Virginia "Ginny" Prest	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		P
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	P	
Ginny Stern	WA Department of Health (alternate)	*P	
Charlie McKinney	WA Department of Ecology	P	
Tom Tebb	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)	P	
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative	P	
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		P

*by phone

II. Welcome & Meeting Overview

Moment of silence.

Introductions.

III. GWMA Program Development

Tom Tebb reviewed the committee's purpose and process, and reminded the group to leave their differences at the door. He urged the group to consider its incredible opportunity to address the nitrate problem locally and successfully. "It is a wonderful opportunity to leave a legacy that we can all be proud of." He requested that the group focus on its goal "to reduce nitrate in groundwater to below state drinking water standards" and recommit to its purpose, concluding, "the Department of Ecology is all in and I hope you are, too."

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IV. Committee Business: Penny Mabie

January 16, 2014 Meeting Summary was approved.

Penny reviewed the GWAC purpose and goals from the GWAC Operating Guidelines. She reminded the group that the purpose of the GWAC is to chart the direction and actions needed to reduce nitrates in groundwater. She will always go back to the guidelines and will keep redirecting the group to keep them focused by asking how discussion items support the program. "How does [this issue] help promote the outcomes we're charged to accomplish?"

V. Deep Soil Sampling: Jim Trull

Jim reviewed the DSS proposal for maintaining confidentiality. He noted that the Irrigated Ag Working group proposal protects the confidentiality of participants in the Deep Soil Sampling program. When producers participate, samples will be taken on their property and analyzed at no cost to them. They will be given a sheet of bar codes with a number at the top and a questionnaire. This number is known only to the participant and can be used to review the results of the sampling on line. Public education will be pursued to encourage participants to sign up for the Deep Soil Sampling.

The EPO group will be asked to publicize the Deep Soil Sampling Program. The Irrigated Ag group plans to target Roza Irrigation and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation users using newsletters, working groups, newspapers, radios and mailing lists.

In response to a question concerning where people will get the packets, they will be at the South Yakima Conservation District office.

Jim requested GWAC approval of the sampling concept in order to move forward.

By consensus the GWAC approved finalizing the proposal and working with the EPO to conduct outreach.

Penny complimented the group, noting they had overcome a seemingly insurmountable problem and had reached a solution together.

VI. Technical Consultant Contract Amendment: Bob Farrell

Bob presented an amendment to a contract for consulting services with HDR. The objective of the amendment is to have HDR "create a spatial database of residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal (RCIM) nitrogen sources in the Lower Yakima Valley."

Source data will be compiled from Yakima County to identify septic systems, fertilizer applied to lawns and gardens, pet waste and hobby farms. Department of Ecology records will be used to identify sites with NPDES or State Waste Discharge Permits. Department of Ecology's Underground Injection Control (UIC) database and local municipalities will be used to "identify features that may act as conduits allowing surface

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water (and potentially contaminants within it) to more easily enter groundwater.” The information gathered will be used to estimate nitrate loads to groundwater.

Comments were made that the database could be expanded to include cattle sources and irrigated croplands. Vern stated the database would be expandable but it doesn't mean that we would use the same methodology that RCIM used. It was also stated that biosolids application areas, injection wells, and loading from sources would be estimated. Questions were raised where the critical recharge areas are in relation to underground injection control wells. Vern stated he has maps of critical recharge areas but will find out what the data source is for these. RCIM believes this is a necessary way to locate the sources.

It was suggested that data from other agencies and projects might be added to this but this option was not discussed by the RCIM. Vern stated if we look at other methodology we are looking for something that is appropriate for our project and in the middle. Bob will take this suggestion back to the RCIM group for discussion.

Concerns were raised about determining how many septic systems are in the county. Vern stated that we already know where municipal sewers are so we know that everyone outside those boundaries are using septic systems. There is data from the census that shows household size and dwelling units. We can pull the information together to give us a meaningful range of calculations.

When the data is compiled it will be used to disseminate the information to the public to make them aware of the importance of maintaining their septic systems and to monitor their application of fertilizer to their lawns and gardens as these sources add to the load to the aquifer.

Vern stated that WAC 173-100 states that we must look at all sources, quantify them, make recommendations and educate the public.

It was noted that the database structure should be approved by all groups not just the RCIM.

The GWAC agreed to approve the amendment with HDR and to forward it to the County for execution.

VII. Elements of GWMA Program : Penny Mabie

Penny reviewed Elements of the GWMA Program flow chart with the group and described how the work done tonight fits into problem identification element.

VIII. GWAC and 2014 Working Group Task List/Schedule : Penny Mabie

Penny presented the 2014 Working Group Task List spreadsheet that she had compiled from five of the seven working groups. The spreadsheet identifies what each working group intends to accomplish for each month of 2014, and when they anticipate presenting information or seeking approval from the full GWAC committee. She noted that the task list illustrates that most work belongs at the working group level, not at the

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GWAC committee level. A member suggested that if the GWAC met less frequently, it would free up time for the working groups to complete their tasks. Members voiced agreement that this was the right idea at the right time.

Consensus was reached that the full GWAC meetings will be scheduled on an every other month basis beginning immediately. The next committee meeting will be held on April 17. The 2014 meeting calendar will be revised to reflect this new schedule.

IX. Working Group Report s:

EPO: Lisa Freund presented two slideshows and a flyer for the committee's approval: The "Nitrate Education" and "Nitrogen Cycle" slideshows and a High Risk Well Assessment flyer. The three materials support the High Risk Well Assessment survey currently underway. Slideshows are intended to be used by the GWAC members when they make presentations to peer groups, constituents and others. They will also be made available at Worksource in Sunnyside. The flyers will be distributed at Worksource, Lower Valley Solid Waste facilities and other Lower Valley locations.

The Nitrogen Cycle slides were considered confusing. It was stated that instead of an EPA conceptual model we should just stick to the facts and we want to make sure that it is clear. Issue was taken with some of the facts on the slides and the conceptual model that was illustrated. Several members asked for additional time to review the slides, make edits and to bring back the revisions at the next GWAC meeting.

Lisa observed that with meetings being only every two months, the delay could put outreach behind schedule for the EPO and other working groups. Penny stated that we do not have time to be wordsmiths at the GWAC meetings and that members need to review the material before meetings, take a good hard look at it and send comments timely back to the working group.

The GWAC agreed that the Nitrogen Cycle slides would not be used as presented. They agreed that they would review the Nitrate Education slides and send changes to Lisa by Monday. She will consider the changes and make edits as she sees appropriate. The resulting version will be used on a limited basis at Worksource. It will be brought back to the GWAC in April for its consideration and approval.

The GWAC approved the flyer as presented.

Lisa also reported that the EPO had considered translating GWAC meeting summaries into Spanish as requested by a GWAC member. The EPO recommends that meeting summaries not be translated at this time; however, this decision will be revisited if the public indicates support for it.

Irrigated Agriculture: No comment.

Livestock/CAFO: Charlie McKinney noted that the Livestock/CAFO group listed potential sources for nitrates such as field application of manure, corrals and pens, compost yard and storage areas, solid manure storage areas and seepage from manure storage lagoons. Seepage from manure storage lagoons will have fairly good data from about 28 different lagoons.

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Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring: No comment.

Regulatory Framework: Charlie McKinney laid out work plans to take policies and regulations to groups done through a standardized questionnaire. They will brainstorm any ideas for changes in regulations and will bring information back for larger discussion. They will work through categories by the end of the year.

X. Next Steps:

Action items:

- Penny will add the Regulatory Framework task list to the spreadsheet and will resend it to members.
- Send slide edits to Lisa by Monday. She will make the edits and use the slides at Worksource.
- County will make a holding area on the web site for monthly handouts from Penny.
- No full committee meeting in March.
- Create a “new handout” list and post on the GWAC Meeting Agenda.

XI. 2014 Meeting Calendar:

- April 17, 2014
- June 19, 2014
- August 21, 2014
- October 16, 2014
- December 18, 2014 (as needed)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Meeting summary approved by the GWAC on April 17, 2014