

[Education and Public Outreach]

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Elizabeth Torres (Citizen), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co), Ignacio Marquez (AGR), Jessica Black (GWAC); Lisa Freund (Yakima County-Chair)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2017 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants

Lisa Freund (Chair-Yakima County), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Ignacio Marquez (AGR), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Vern Redifer (Yakima County), Karri Espinoza (Yakima County), *Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), *Jessica Black (GWAC), *Gretchen Stewart (EPA)

*Via phone

Key Discussion Points

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Lisa reviewed the agenda, no additional items were added.

2017 Outreach

The group brainstormed a 2017 EPO outreach plan. Lisa reminded the group that 2017 is the final year of the Ecology grant funding; that the GWAC has approved approximately \$90,000 for EPO outreach; and that the EPO has been asked to pursue both Abandoned Well outreach and Septic System Maintenance outreach.

For purposes of 2017 messaging, the group decided that each GWMA working group will be asked to provide a bullet-point summary of their mission, their accomplishments, discoveries, and their anticipated products. The EPO will review the summaries and identify key outreach messages from them, and will use the summary data to inform its outreach messages and materials.

The group's discussion, a preliminary timeline calendar, and action items are summarized below.

2017 Outreach:

What We Know:

- Funding: Approximately \$90,000 for EPO Projects
- 2017 – Final year of plan (Ecology grant concludes December 2017)

GWAC/Joint Working Group Requests:

- Abandoned Well Outreach – ASAP (Joint Abandoned Wells Working Group request)
- Septic System Maintenance Outreach (GWAC)

I. GWAC Work Status:

- What's been accomplished - What's coming up/left to do?

For example:

- Nitrogen Loading Assessment
- Deep Soil Sampling
- Ambient Monitoring Program
 - Drinking Water Monitoring Network
 - Pursue Contract to build purpose-built wells
- High-Risk Well Assessments (Phase I & II)
 - PSA's
 - Live Radio Shows
 - Mailings, etc.
 - Agency Presentations (INSPIRE)
- Five 2016 Health Fairs
- Door-to-Door surveys (2013)
- Flyers
- "Test Your Well" English/Spanish billboards
- PEHSU Partnership Products
 - New Mom Flyer (English/Spanish)
 - Medical Provider Fact Sheet
 - Grand Rounds
- Regulatory Framework Summary
 - Laws
 - Regulations

II. Communication - Prospective Thinking:

- What we know -
 - Water (Irrigated Ag) Management
 - Nutrient Management
 - Best Management Practices (BMP's) recommendations from:
 - IAWG

- Livestock/CAFO
 - Website:
 - Primary outreach vehicle

III. Discovery:

- What outreach vehicles do we want to use to inform the public? For example:
 - Open houses
 - Public Hearings (under the WAC, Ecology holds the hearings)
 - Elected Official Briefings

IV. What We Need from Each Working Group:

- Working Group Mission
- Accomplishments
- Discoveries
- Future products/recommendations
- Audiences

EPO's 2017 Q1 Calendar

January	<p>Working Group Input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make pitch to working groups in person (Vern) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request for summaries – who is your audience? ○ Create EPO Summary (Lisa F.) <p>Prepare draft abandoned wells bullet points (Andy & Joye) Circulate draft abandoned wells bullet points to EPO via e-mail (Lisa) Reach EPO decision on abandoned wells bullet points (all)</p>
February	<p>Deadline for Working Groups summaries Introduce roll-out at February 16 GWAC meeting. Provide materials for Ignacio to distribute at the Feb 22nd – Agriculture Safety Conference</p>
March	<p>Compile/Evaluate Working Group Messages</p>

ACTION: Joye will send Lisa a sample questionnaire that she has created and used at the Department of Ecology. Lisa will create the EPO's Work Group summary. Vern will make the pitch to the remaining Working Groups to create their progress summaries.

Abandoned Wells

The group discussed the next steps for abandoned well outreach. A member observed that this has been discussed previously and determined to be very difficult, if not impossible. (If it could be

done, Ecology would have done it already). Another member observed that they believe there is solid proof that dairies contribute to elevated nitrates in groundwater, but the contribution from abandoned wells is speculative. Another member observed that state agencies are required to provide materials in formats and languages that the audience can understand. The group agreed that they need to establish priorities for each initiative.

A discussion followed regarding who the target audiences are within the GWMA, their various education levels, and the outreach vehicles that might be used to communicate effectively with each audience.

It was decided that Joye and Andy will compile the message points and information using existing materials that focus on well protection (“*Twelve Simple Things You Can Do to Protect Your Well Water*” and the “*Oregon State University Well Water Program*”) and create a document for the EPO’s review by January 19, 2017. Once the message points are approved by the EPO it will be translated into Spanish.

ACTION: Joye and Andy will have the draft of the message points e-mailed to EPO member by January 19, 2017.

The EPO will review the draft message points via email with the intent to reach agreement.

Subject to EPO approval, the final product will be presented to the GWAC at the February 16, 2017 meeting.

Lisa F. will send out a link of the Questions and Answer’s section on the Yakima County website to the EPO.

Spanish-Language Outreach (Jean) & Well Testing Poster (Gretchen-PEHSU)

These topics were tabled to the next meeting; however, handouts were distributed for members’ review. Informally, the group had no changes to PEHSU’s “*Should I Test My Private Well Water?*” poster.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Resources Requested

None

Deliverables/Products Status

Working Group Summaries

- Joye will send Lisa a sample summary
- Lisa will create the EPO’s summary
- Vern will make the pitch to the GWAC working groups for their summaries

Abandoned Wells

- Joye and Andy will work together to create an abandoned well message point draft to be e-mailed to all EPO members by January 19, 2017
- EPO members will review the proposed well message points and return comments by January 31.
- Subject to EPO approval, the final abandoned well message points will be presented to the GWAC at the February 16, 2017 meeting.
- Lisa F. will send a link of the Q&A section on the Yakima County website to the EPO members

Proposed Next Steps

1. Present the working group summaries (proposed messaging) at its February GWAC meeting.
2. Present the abandoned well talking points to the GWAC at its February meeting.

The next EPO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Yakima County Courthouse Room 419.