



**YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(GWAC)**

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 21, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Denny Blaine Boardroom
810 Custer Avenue, Sunnyside, WA 98944*

Note: This document is only a summary of issues and actions of this meeting. It is not intended to be a transcription of the meeting, but an overview of points raised and responses from Yakima County and Groundwater Advisory Committee members. It may not fully represent the ideas discussed or opinions given. Examination of this document cannot equal or replace attendance.

I. Call to Order: This meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by Jim Davenport, Facilitator.

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

Rodney Heit	South Yakima Conservation District (alternate)		
John Van Wingerden III	Port of Sunnyside		✓
Jay Decker	Port of Sunnyside (alternate)		✓
Rand Elliott	Yakima County Board of Commissioners		✓
Vern Redifer	Yakima County Board of Commissioners (alternate)		✓
Ryan Ibach	Yakima Health District		✓
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center		✓
Lucy Edmondson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	✓	
Nick Peak	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchey	Yakama Nation		✓
Stuart Crane	Yakama Nation (alternate)	✓	
Gary Bahr	WA Department of Agriculture	✓	
	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	✓	
Sheryl Howe	WA Department of Health (alternate)		✓
David Bowen	WA Department of Ecology	✓	
Sage Park	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)		✓
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative		✓
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		✓
Jessica Black	Heritage University		✓
Matt Bachmann	USGS	✓	

13 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. The
 14 group paused for a moment of silence. Jim asked if anyone had any additions to the
 15 agenda. One member wished to discuss how the GWAC’s ultimate recommendations
 16 would be paid for. Another member wished to discuss solutions that address the needs of
 17 people in the GWMA target area whose wells have nitrates greater than 10 mg/L, citing the
 18 “Immediate Public Health Needs” on page 21 of the GWMA Work Plan. Another member
 19 wished to discuss the initial results from the USGS sampling program. All these matters
 20 were deferred.

21
 22 **III. Meeting Summaries:** Jim moved approval of prior meeting summaries from July 27, August
 23 10, August 24, and September 7 up to the front of the agenda. The summaries were
 24 approved as presented.

25
 26 **IV. Working Group Reports:** There were none.
 27

28 **V. Continued Review and Discussion of Results of Survey Monkey on Alternative Land and**
 29 **Water Use Management Strategies for Reaching Program Goals and Objectives per WAC**
 30 **173-100-100(4):**

31
 32 **The group agreed to keep these alternatives on the list for further review. (Green)**

33
 34 **No. 30:** Create an aquifer protection area. *The group deleted the word “Create” and*
 35 *replaced it with “Postpone a decision on creation of.” They also added “until a later date*
 36 *when more information is known” at the end of the sentence.*

37
 38 **No. 20:** Voluntary development and implementation of NMPs by operations not already
 39 required to hold permits or a DNMP as an effective means of environmental protection.

40
 41 **No. 93:** Summarize the DNMP reporting and provide information that would disclose the
 42 amount of manure the CAFOs in the GWMA created and where it was distributed. *The*
 43 *group changed “the DNMP” to “the industry-wide NMP”; added “to the public” after*
 44 *“disclose”; and deleted “where it was distributed”, replacing it with “to whom it was*
 45 *delivered.”*

46
 47 **No. 163:** Streamline current enforcement activities so as to improve customer service and
 48 protocols, increase clarity of process, escalate enforcement for facilities not following
 49 management practices, identify methods to discourage repeatedly unfounded complaints,
 50 and improve overall transparency. *The group added “intentionally” in front of “not*
 51 *following”, and added “(particularly repeat offenders)” after “management practices.”*

52
 53 **EPA Submission 3: Old version:** If there are any drinking water wells near and
 54 downgradient of a dairy that exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate,
 55 install groundwater monitoring wells, upgradient and downgradient, to assess whether the
 56 dairy is contributing to the loading of nitrates. ***New approved version:*** *If there are drinking*
 57 *water wells that have had a comprehensive site assessment and that exceed the Maximum*
 58 *Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrate, investigate causes and consider sampling additional*
 59 *wells, upgradient and downgradient, to assess the source of the nitrate.*

60
 61 **No. 97:** Ask SYCD for projected plan to expand fiscal and administrative capacity.
 62

63 **No. 102:** Recommend funding for Southern Yakima Conservation District review of Dairy
64 Nutrient Management Plans. *The group deleted the word “review” and replaced it with*
65 *“update.”*

66
67 **No. 197:** Provide financial assistance for 1) conversions from rill irrigation to sprinkler or
68 drip irrigation, 2) installation of flow meters and moisture meters to reflect over-irrigation,
69 high water table, drought conditions, 3) the cost of hiring third party sampling, measuring
70 equipment, personnel or self-test kits, 4) management of sprinkler systems so they do not
71 drive nutrients past the root system. *Members felt this could be combined with No. 162,*
72 *although it was labelled green after some discussion.*

73
74 **The group agreed to keep these on the list and consolidate them with similar alternatives.**

75 **(Yellow)**

76
77 **No. 162:** Increase funding for the local Conservation District and Natural Resources
78 Conservation Service (NRCS) so that assistance programs for nutrient management
79 planning, engineering, cost share, and loan funds are more available. *The group added*
80 *“NRCS” after “Increase”. They also deleted “the local Conservation District and Natural*
81 *Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) so that” and “are more available.”*

82
83 **The group either agreed these alternatives should be removed from the list, or were not**
84 **able to reach consensus on them. (Red)**

85
86 **No. 1:** Pump, treat and reinject groundwater.

87
88 **No. 36:** Create county ordinance limiting total number of density of cows or dairies (lid).

89
90 **No. 37:** Adopt a LYC GWMA or county-wide CAFO ordinance.

91
92 **No. 94:** Review and evaluate WSDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program inspection
93 “protocols” to assist in determining if additional resources should be allocated and identify
94 any areas for improvement of the inspections themselves.

95
96 **No. 100:** Enhance engineering expertise (personnel) within Conservation District – none
97 there or at NRCS.

98

99 **No. 251:** Require WSDA to establish an air monitoring system for compliance with NRCS
100 Standard 370 Atmospheric Resource Quality Management on Washington farms and to
101 educate operations that do not comply with this standard.

102
103 **The group agreed to revisit these alternatives at the next GWAC meeting. (Blue)**

104
105 **EPA Submission 1:** Require regular examination of all underground pipes that transport
106 liquid manure – using either with cameras or pressure tested, and require repairs if they are
107 not intact. *The group deleted “regular examination” and replaced it with “biannual pressure*
108 *testing.”*

109
110 **EPA Submission 2:** Consistent with the NRCS’ general recommendation, the use of lagoons
111 should be avoided in watersheds with drinking water aquifers. Any new or existing lagoons
112 in watersheds with drinking water aquifers should be equipped with engineered liners with
113 a flexible membrane liner (FML) and a leak detection system.

114
115 **No. 180:** Treat manure supply in excess of that which can reasonably be applied as nutrient
116 to agricultural lands as a waste product. Apply waste management strategies including land
117 disposal at designated site, incineration, centralized waste-to-energy facility.

118
119 **No. 249:** Enforce RCW 70.95.020, RCW 70.95.100, RCW 70.95.160, RCW 70.95.165, RCW
120 70.95.179, RCW 70.95.180, RCW 70.95.185, RCW 70.95.200, RCW 70.95.205, RCW
121 70.95.240, RCW 70.95.280, RCW 70.95.285, RCW 70.95.290, RCW 70.95.300, RCW
122 70.95.305, RCW 70.95.306, RCW 70.95.310, and RCW 70.95.315 **(Note - RCW Chapter 70.95**
123 **is titled "Solid Waste Management - Reduction and Recycling")**. *Jean agreed to narrow the*
124 *focus of this proposed alternative.*

125
126 **No. 250:** Enforce WAC 173-350-010, WAC 173-350-040, WAC 173-350-200, WAC 173-350-
127 220, WAC 173-350-225, WAC 173-350-230, WAC 173-350-320, WAC 173-350-330, WAC
128 173-350-500, WAC 173-350-700, WAC 173-350-710, and WAC 173-350-715 **(Note - WAC**
129 **Chapter 173-350 is titled (Solid Waste Handling Standards))**. *Jean agreed to narrow the*
130 *focus of this proposed alternative.*

131
132 **No. 257:** Enforce RCW 70.94.011, 70.94.040, RCW 70.94.141, RCW 70.94.151, RCW
133 70.94.152, RCW 70.94.153, RCW 70.94.154, RCW 70.94.161, RCW 70.94.181, RCW

134 70.94.331, RCW 70.94.380 (Note - RCW Chapter 70.94 is titled "Washington Clean Air Act").
135 *Jean agreed to narrow the focus of this proposed alternative.*

136

137 **No. 258:** Enforce WAC 173-442-030, WAC 173-442-040, WAC 173-442-050, WAC 173-442-
138 060, WAC 173-442-070, WAC 173-442-160, WAC 173-442-170, WAC 173-442-200, WAC
139 173-442-210, and WAC 173-442-220 (Note - WAC Chapter 173-442 is titled "Clean Air
140 Rule"). *Jean agreed to narrow the focus of this proposed alternative.*

141

142 **Nos. 98, 212, 214, 219, 220, 221, 259, and 46:** These items were not discussed.

143

144 **VI. Public Comment:** A member of the public expressed concerns over the GWAC process,
145 including the Irrigated Ag Working Group's meeting schedule, what the member saw as an
146 inadequate number of farmers and growers engaged in irrigated agriculture, and that the
147 potential for regulatory solutions would disproportionately harm small farmers.

148

149 **VII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

150

151 **VIII. Next Meeting:** October 5, 2017.

152

153 **IX. Next Steps:** 1) All blue items will be discussed at the next GWAC meeting. 2) Jean will
154 narrow the focus Nos. 249, 250, 257 and 258 to get to the essence of her concern. 3)
155 Funding sources for GWAC proposals will be discussed at a future GWAC meeting. 4)
156 Solutions that address the needs of people in the GWMA target area whose wells have
157 nitrates greater than 10 mg/L will be discussed at a future GWAC meeting. 5) Results from
158 the USGS sampling program will be presented at a future GWAC meeting.

159

160 **X. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on October 5, 2017.