

Irrigated Ag Working Group (IAWG)

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Jim Trull (GWAC-Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control), Bob Stevens (interested party) Bud Rogers (GWAC-Citizen), Chelsea Durfey (GWAC), Dan McCarty (interested party), Dave Cowan (interested party), Dave Fraser (Interested Party - Simplot Agronomist), Donald Jameson (interested party), Doug Simpson (GWAC-Farmer), Frank Lyall (GWAC-Farm Bureau), Ginny Prest (GWAC-Dept. of Ag), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Newhouse (GWAC), Kevin Lindsey (interested party), Kirk Cook (GWAC-WSDA), Laurie Crowe (GWAC-South Yakima Conservation District), Melanie Redding (Ecology), Mike Shuttleworth (interested party), Ralph Fisher (EPA), Ron Cowin (GWAC-SVID), Scott Stephen (interested party), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co.), Tom Tebb (GWAC-Department of Ecology), Rosalio Brambila (interested party), Dr. Troy Peters (GWAC-WSU); Vern Redifer, Jim Davenport.

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Office, 120 S. Eleventh Street, Sunnyside

When: June 28, 2015 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Call: (509) 574-2353 – Pin # 2353

Participants

Jim Trull (Chair), Ginny Prest*, Laurie Crowe, Stuart Turner, Doug Simpson, Dr. Troy Peters, Frank Lyall, Ben Lee, Eric Weber, Dan McCarty, Landon Schilperoort, Kathleen Rogers, Perry Beale, Kelly McLain, Kirk Cook and Greta Smith (Yakima County)

*via telephone

Key Discussion Points

1. Review of 1st Round of PHDSS Results and Observations by Landau and Associates of PHDSS Results

Laurie Crowe introduced Eric Weber and Ben Lee from Landau Associates, who have the contract for the Deep Soil Sampling and Analysis. They presented observations of the results of the Post-Harvest Deep Soil Sampling (PHDSS) conducted in the fall of 2014. Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation. All results were given to Laurie with barcode to reference. Growers obtain the barcode from Laurie and then call in for the results, which they have been doing.

After the presentation, Jim T. asked the group what information from the analysis should be shared at the next GWAC meeting. It was stated that current results show (1) Fall and (1) Spring sampling results, but the end of the year it will be (2) Fall and (1) Spring. It was suggested that GWAC be asked to authorize Landau and Associates to analyze results from the three data sets after the fall 2015 PHDSS is complete. Further analysis after the spring 2016 sampling is complete can be possibly added as an addendum.

2. Handling, Storage, and Management of Agricultural and Animal Byproducts

This section is intended to be unrelated to lagoons or other storage within an AFO/CAFO. The group was reminded that the focus needs to stick to nutrient and water management or irrigated land. The consensus was not to address Handling, Storage, and Management of Agricultural and Animal Byproducts.

3. Nutrient Management

Code 590 was designed for agriculture in the Midwest and so it has been reworked for this area which better takes on the diversity of the agriculture in Washington State.

Laurie Crowe suggested the following guidelines:

- Use the Western Fertilizer Handbook (WFH) for most crops. Use WSU fertilizer guidelines for hops and mint because the WFH does not list those crops.
- Use the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) crop nutrient tool (web-based) for Triticale and other crops that may not be in the WFH or if the WSU guidelines are too old. Also, if a grower is planting a new variety of seed, manufacturer recommendations can be used.
- The bottom line is to know actual average yields for the last three years, the soil test results, the nutrient content of the fertilizer source, and budget accordingly.

Western Fertilizer Handbook

<http://www.amazon.com/Western-Fertilizer-Handbook-Health-Association/dp/1577666798>

4. Data Collection, Education, and Public Outreach

- **Post Implementation PHDSS:** Yes, this is something that will be needed
- **Mobile Lab or other Methods to Evaluate Irrigation Management Efficiency:** Funding for this is in the works. Laurie stated that six real time monitoring packages have been purchased which will be available for loan. They are a single probe with five sensors and have a cell phone application for monitoring.
- **Public Outreach to Promote Irrigation and Nutrient Management Efficiency:** Not ready at this time and DSS is still happening.

5. Other Business

Kirk C. mentioned that in Sept/Oct. grower surveys by Perry Beale and Kelly McLain of the Washington Department of Agriculture, should be wrapped up. Ten major crops were selected, they were able to talk with growers and 30% of the area for the crop was covered. This process should be a good starting point to relationship building.

A member suggested that the group start thinking of what potential incentives would be effective to get growers to do best management practices. Anything that is chosen needs to be perceived as being equitable and fair. Once the group has agreed on something, it needs to be sent to those formulating the plans so that information can be included. He feels that something which increases profitability is the biggest incentive. There is not enough subsidies for every farmer so incentives need to be other than monetary. A member suggested that the data itself could be an incentive. Incentives will help get both long term farmers and new farmers to engage and participate without having to pressure them to do so. Ginny P. stated that if a list of ideas is created she would be willing to take it to the Regulatory Committee. Consensus appears to be that impacting the farmers positively is the goal and regulating the farmer is not the direction they want to go.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Resources Requested

- N/A

Recommendations for GWAC

- N/A

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposed Next Steps
