

## Education and Public Outreach Working Group

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Edit the Nitrogen Cycle and Nitrate Education talking points as requested at the GWAC's February meeting. Bring back the edited version to the GWAC's April June meeting for final approval.

### Working Group Members

Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-Friends of Toppenish Creek), Tom Tebb (GWAC-Ecology), Elizabeth Torres (Citizen), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Nieves Negrete (Citizen), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Tom Eaton (GWAC-EPA), Dean Effler (Citizen), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Wendell Hannigan (GWAC-Alternate), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co), Ignacio Marquez (AGR)

### Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

### Participants

Lisa Freund (EPO Chair -Yakima County), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-FOTC), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), Ignacio Marquez (AGR), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Karri Espinoza (Yakima County staff), Vern Redifer (Director of Yakima County Public Services), \*Nieves Negrete (Citizen)

\*via phone

### Key Discussion Points

**Welcome & Meeting Overview:** Lisa Freund welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting agenda. She noted that Vern Redifer would be speaking to the group about the EPO budget in response to a request from Jean Mendoza.

Vern reviewed the GWMA's State funding allocations. He stated that each working group is responsible for developing its work plan and proposed budget and making a recommendation to the GWAC. Working groups make budget recommendations; the GWAC determines how to prioritize the money. Vern added that the EPO should identify their needs and make its budget proposal to the GWAC. He also provided Jean with a budget handout she had requested.

**ACTION:** Lisa F. will put the budget discussion on the July 2<sup>nd</sup> EPO agenda.

Lisa F. announced that Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology) will be taking a break from the EPO. She will be checking in with the group and is still available to provide feedback or offer outreach guidance.

**New Mom Brochure Campaign:** Gretchen Stewart presented the group with two documents that the Northwest PEHSU (Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit) had created in response to EPO's New Mom initiative. The first was a two-page educational piece directed at health care providers. It explained what nitrate is, the sources, the health impacts of high nitrate in patients and how to recognize symptoms.

The second piece was a one-page flyer that was based on the provider version, but in a simplified version written at a lower reading level. It would be a stand-alone document that could be translated and distributed to new moms, play groups, community groups or made available at healthcare provider offices and at public events. A discussion of whether a map should be printed on the flyer ensued. The group decided to put a link to a map to save space for more pertinent information. Other edits and additions were suggested. It was noted that, pending GWAC approval, the final version will be translated and printed double-sided (English/Spanish). Gretchen offered to make the final edits discussed today and to have the document formatted. The group agreed that after final EPO review, it will be forwarded to the GWAC.

Jean asked if the flyer could include information about a link between anencephaly and high nitrates. Gretchen replied that EPA has been studying possible connections, but at this time it is too premature to make a statement until further study has been done.

**ACTION:** Gretchen will make the suggested edits and format the flyer, forward it to Lisa on Monday, June 2, and brief Tom Eaton before the June GWAC meeting.

**ACTION:** Lisa will forward the edited flyer to the EPO, then to GWAC facilitator Penny Mabie for distribution to the GWAC.

**ACTION:** Tom Eaton will present the two-page healthcare provider document and the one-page New Mom flyer at the GWAC's June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will ask the GWAC to approve the one-page flyer.

**Outreach for High Risk Well Assessment Survey:** Ignacio reported that in addition to WorkSource presentations, he had distributed Free Well Testing flyers to the Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Advocacy Group INSPIRE and at a KDNA community event. Patricia noted that she distributed more than 100 flyers at businesses and agencies; she added that a banner identifying our effort would be helpful at booths we are staffing. It was also noted that Dean Effler distributed nearly 100 flyers at Zillah Community Days. In all, over 1000 flyers were distributed since January.

Lisa observed that the May 30<sup>th</sup> participation deadline is this Friday. Nieves asked if the GWAC could pressure the health district to continue surveying. Lisa noted that summer

is the health district's busy season (why they were unwilling to extend the contract); but Gordon Kelly had suggested the possibility of a contract at the end of the summer to survey homes that had missed the first opportunity. A lengthy conversation ensued regarding sampling quality standards and barriers to participation.

**ACTION:** Patricia will provide Lisa F. a list of where she distributed flyers.

**ACTION:** Lisa will investigate the cost of a banner that can be displayed at public events and bring back options to the EPO.

**EPO Talking Points:** The group reviewed and edited the slide presentation. Gretchen observed that the slides are intended as a "Train the Trainer" tool. It is one tool in a toolkit of outreach options. Related resources will be developed provided the GWAC approves the "Train the Trainer" concept.

**ACTION:** Andy will edit the text and get it back to Gretchen by end of the day Friday May 30, 2014. Gretchen will make the format changes and send it to Lisa, who will distribute it to the group for one last review by end of the day on Monday June 2, 2014.

#### **Resources Requested**

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None.

#### **Recommendations for GWAC**

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Approve PEHSU New Mom One-Page Flyer

Approve edited "Train the Trainer" Talking Point Slides

#### **Proposed Next Steps – July Meeting Topics**

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- Budget discussion
- Distribution of the New Mom Flyer
- [placeholder] EPO goals and objectives status

Next meeting Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 1:30 PM, Yakima County Courthouse Room 419 (phone: 509-574-2353 [PIN# 2353#])