

## Education and Public Outreach Working Group

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

#### 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)

#### Meetings/Calls Dates

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Meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

#### Participants

Andres Cervantes, Joye Redfield-Wilder, Patricia Newhouse, Elizabeth Torres, Nieves Negrete, Dean Edler; Jean Mendoza and Gretchen Stewart - via phone; Lisa Freund (EPO Chair -Yakima County) and Karri Espinoza (Yakima County staff)

#### Key Discussion Points

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##### Status Report:

**1. Public Questionnaire/Heritage University:** 120 household surveys have been attempted to date. 28 are completed, 30 households declined, 24 not possible (vacant, dogs and/or gates). The remaining 40 will be re-attempted. The target number is 300 households, leaving 180 still to be attempted. Students made a big push over the Labor Day weekend to complete the surveys. The contract deadline is October 31. The committee discussed how to best evaluate Heritage students' performance.

**ACTION:** Jean, Dean and Nieves will refine Jean's draft evaluation form and bring it back for EPO approval on October 2. Then they will call 20 random households to administer the evaluation form. Joye will send some of Ecology's survey evaluations to Jean and Nieves as samples.

**2. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Healthy Homes Presentation** – This presentation will be held September 6, 2013 at the Yakama Nation. The agency's mission is to educate and protect households from significant environmental risks.

**ACTION:** Gretchen will present a 20-30 minute talk about GWAC specifically on nitrates in the drinking water. She will forward the talking points slides for future EPO use to Lisa. She will also give Lisa feedback on who attends and hears the information.

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Dean will take the slides and create a "boilerplate" slideshow of talking points.

**3. Commission on Hispanic Affairs "Connect with your Government "** – Andy's script (English and Spanish) is completed. Andy will make the presentation. It is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 PM. It will be broadcast statewide and locally on Radio KDWA.

**4. GWMA Website and Links** – Andy noted that the GWAC should be reminded to forward relevant links to the EPO. Periodic reminders are needed as links and information evolve over time.

The group discussed the re-vamp and maintenance of the current website. The County does not currently have the resources to make it appealing and user-friendly to general public audiences. It was discussed to look at outsourcing the task.

**ACTION:** Lisa is working on getting quotes for the cost of re-vamping the website and has already received a quote of \$200 a month to maintain the website.

**5. Lower Yakima Valley GWMA Program Development Budget and EPO budget** – The group was asked to review the specific allocation for each working group. If they have suggestions/changes, they need to inform Vern by September 11th.

**ACTION:** Members will forward their comments directly to either Vern or Lisa for the GWAC's consideration.

### **EPO Budget and Scope of Work**

**ACTION:** Lisa will provide members with the information that was used to create the budget sheets by September 6th.

EPO will review the EPO Budget and Scope of Work. Specific recommendations to the budget for scope of work must be accompanied by an estimated cost line item. Members will forward specific tasks with estimated line item costs to Lisa by September 12.

**6. Community Advisory Board (CAB) for El Proyecto Bienestar** – This community is made up of 13-14 members of the Hispanic community including but not limited to farmers, educators and medical professionals. It is mostly funded by the University of Washington/National Institutes of Health. A few of the things they target are water testing, air quality/asthma, heat related illness and workplace abuse within the Hispanic community. Elizabeth asked if the EPO would be willing to give a presentation on GWMA at one of the bi-monthly meetings held at KNDA Radio Station.

**ACTION:** Elizabeth Torres will e-mail Lisa the December meeting date. Lisa agreed to speak to Commissioner Rand Elliott, the GWMA Chair, about giving the presentation.

**7. Healthcare Provider Letter, Questionnaire and Methemoglobinemia Handout.** Dean noted that the information did not reach all the targeted healthcare providers. In his and Jean's opinion, this particular outreach method failed.

**8. New Mother Brochure.** In Dean's absence, this outreach tool has not moved forward.

**ACTION:** place on the October agenda. Dean has offered to coordinate the distribution of the final product to ensure the appropriate audiences receive the materials.

**9. High Risk Well Assessment Survey (Survey #1) [placeholder-no update]**

**Resources Requested – N./A**

**Recommendations for GWAC - Review and approve draft talking points**

**Deliverables/Products Status**

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See status report actions 1-9, above.

**Proposed Next Steps**

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1. Review GWMA budget allocations. Send recommendations (specific allocation changes), to Lisa /or Vern Redifer by Wednesday, September 11.
2. Review EPO Budget. Send budget-specific requests (line item allocations) to Lisa by Thursday, September 12.
3. Complete the Heritage student evaluation form and bring back to the EPO for review and approval. (Jean Mendoza, Dean Effler and Nieves Negrete)
4. Conduct follow-up phone calls to ask survey participants for their feedback on the survey and the surveyors (Jean Mendoza and Nieves Negrete)
5. Enter Public Questionnaire results into database and report back on same. (Yakima County/Lisa Freund)
6. Develop master slide show of GWMA talking points. (Gretchen Stewart, Dean Effler)

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