

EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Andres Cervantes, Jean Mendoza, Tom Tebb, Rachel Little, Elizabeth Torres, Gretchen Stewart, Mark Nielson, Nieves Negrete, Patricia Newhouse, Tom Eaton, Dean Effler, Joye Redfield-Wilder, Wendell Hannigan, Stuart Turner

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Participants

Andres Cervantes (DOH), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Patricia Newhouse (Public); Gretchen Stewart - via phone (EPA), Rachel Little - via phone (Benton Conservation District); and Lisa Freund (Yakima County)

Key Discussion Points

I. Surveys (1. High Risk Well Users; 2. Public Informational Questionnaire and 3. Health Care Professional Questionnaire)

1. High Risk Well User survey:

Status: waiting on the County's and Yakima Health District's (HD) final approval of the interlocal agreement for HD to administer the surveys. Pending any issues, County Commission will approve the agreement at its June 25, 2013 agenda meeting.

2. Public Informational Questionnaire:

Reviewed Heritage University's proposal to conduct the surveys door-to-door. (YVCC declined to submit a proposal)

Reviewed and finalized the questionnaire cover letter.

II. Spanish-Language Translation Discussion

Update on Survey translation (Andy Cervantes)

Member request for GWAC meeting summary translation (TABLED- requestor was absent)

III. Outreach opportunities

Joye Redfield Wilder discussed Ecology's upcoming contract with State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (Spanish-language programming; nitrates a possible topic) seeking coordinated participation with the GWAC and State Department of Health.

Outreach Matrix status

IV. May 16, 2013 EPA presentation

Andy Cervantes reviewed EPA data; can EPA provide more specific information on testing locations? Gretchen Stewart will coordinate with EPA staff to determine if information can be shared.

Resources Requested

\$5300 for an agreement with Heritage University to conduct Survey #2-Public Questionnaire-door-to-door.

A list of addresses/areas of data gaps from Data Collection and EPA for purposes of conducting Survey #2.

List of GWAC members' community group/organization contacts (e.g., Rotary, church groups, volunteer boards). Requesting GWAC members make initial contact with their respective groups to assist EPO's outreach.

Recommendations for GWAC

1. Enter into agreement with Heritage University for \$5300 to conduct 120-160 Survey #2-Public Questionnaires - door-to-door in high nitrate areas.
2. Advise the GWAC that the Benton-Franklin and Yakima County Health Districts will separately send the healthcare provider letter to their own constituencies. (GWAC approved joint letter in March; given uncertainty of Benton County GWMA status, EPO is recommending separate letters so Yakima County can proceed with dissemination in a timely manner.)
3. Participate in the Commission on Hispanic Affairs/Ecology Spanish-language radio program.

Deliverables/Products Status

Survey - 1. High Risk Well Users. Status: Waiting for County Commission approval of Agreement with Yakima Health District - (June 25, 2013 Commission agenda meeting).

- Survey - 2. Public Questionnaire. Status: Pursue Interlocal Agreement with Heritage University. Requesting Data Collection workgroup, with EPA input, to identify and forward **specific addresses for the survey to the EPO by June 14**. Conduct surveys both door-to-door and at community events.

Survey - 3. Advising the GWAC that the Benton-Franklin and Yakima County health districts will distribute the healthcare provider letters under separate cover. Pending signatures, letters are ready to be distributed.

GWMA Web site - ongoing meeting calendar is now available for viewing. A workgroup page with links to each working group is also available (<http://www.yakimacounty.us/gwma/>).

Proposed Next Steps

Survey #2

1. By June 6: Coordinate EPA/Data Collection Discussion. Request Data Collection group and EPA to identify specific addresses/areas for Survey #2-Public Questionnaire. (**Gretchen Stewart, Andy Cervantes**)

By June 14: Obtain Survey addresses/areas from Data Collection/EPA (**Andy Cervantes, Gretchen Stewart**)

By June 21: Pursue and finalize Interlocal agreement with Heritage College (**Lisa Freund**)

Provide Survey training to students

2. **By June 14:** Complete the survey translations (**Andy Cervantes**, lead; Patricia Newhouse will review)
3. **By June 14:** Complete the cover letters (goals, purpose, key messages) for surveys #1 and #3 (**Andy Cervantes, Dean Effler**)
4. **By June 25:** Finalize Yakima County Health District interlocal agreement for Survey #1 (**Don Gatchalian**)
5. Obtain signatures on the cover letter(s) to health professionals for Survey # 3 from Yakima and Benton Health Districts. (?)
6. Create and obtain GWAC input on the outreach matrix. Begin contacting community groups to gauge interest/opportunities for outreach. (**Joye Redfield Wilder, Patricia Newhouse, Gretchen Stewart, Lisa Freund**)
7. **by August 7:** review personal calendars to determine if there is another day/time option for the EPO's regularly scheduled monthly meeting, or maintain the status quo. (**All members**)

Next regularly scheduled meeting of the EPO will be **Wednesday, *August 7, 2013** at 1:30 p.m., Yakima County Courthouse Fourth Floor, room 419. The call in number for conference call is (509) 574-2353. PIN - 2353#

**As of this writing, no July meeting is scheduled.*