

## Irrigated Ag Working Group (IAWG)

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

#### Working Group Members

Jim Trull (Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control), Dr. Troy Peters (WSU), Jean Mendoza (friends of Toppenish Creek), , Ralph Fisher (EPA), Ron Cowin (SVID), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co.), Tom Tebb (Department of Ecology), Ginny Prest (Dept. of Ag), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Dave Fraser (Simplot Agronomist), Scott Stephen (Citizen), Donald Jameson (Citizen), Mike Shuttleworth (Citizen), Chelsea Durfey (Citizen), Doug Simpson (Farmer), Rosalio Brambila (Farm Manager), Vern Redifer, Jim Davenport

#### Meetings/Calls Dates

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

When: April 6, 2015 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Call: (509) 574-2353 – Pin # 2353

#### Participants

Jim Trull (Chair), Jean Mendoza, Doug Simpson, Stuart Turner, Laurie Crowe\*, Dr. Troy Peters, Scott Stephen, Jim Davenport, Vern Redifer, Frank Lyall, Ralph Fisher\*, Lee Murdock, Greta Smith (Yakima County staff support)

\*via telephone

#### Key Discussion Points

##### **1. Round 2 of Deep Soil Sampling.**

Laurie Crowe spoke about the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Deep Soil Sampling (DSS). It is anticipated to start April 27<sup>th</sup>, with fifty samples to be taken, none of which are to be repeats. The focus will be on triticale, grapes, and mint. A member requested to know how many producers submitted more than one survey or sample site; Laurie will retrieve that information and submit to Jim Trull for dissemination to the group in the quarterly report. It was confirmed that the questionnaire used will be the last revision from late Fall 2014.

**ACTION:** Jim Trull will collect information regarding the number of surveys per producers and include in the quarterly report.

## 2. Review of Parameters for Deep Soil Sampling.

To ensure everyone was on the same page, Jim Trull reiterated the statement “These rooting depth categories include less than 2.3 feet, 2.5 up to 4 feet and more than 4 feet.”

The discussion around Deep Soil Sampling (DSS) leaned toward the complexity of the sampling with crop type, root depth, soil conditions and crop rotations being variables that will affect the sampling. It was suggested that a large data set will produce the best results.

It was also discussed that one of the outcomes of the DSS was that informed producers were changing their practices once informed of the results. The question of outreach was discussed. The best method of outreach for DSS participation may be producers talking to other producers about the individual benefit of being a participant of the DSS project. Dissemination of the data with the potential to impact farming practices will take a different type of outreach. No conclusions were reached on that subject.

## 3. Review of GWMA Plan Timeline

Vern Redifer stated that the GWMA Plan timeline is intended to identify what specific tasks needed to be completed and in what order in relation to WAC 173.100.100. He also mentioned that many of these tasks are dependent on each other. This information is adaptable and he is looking for suggestions from each Working Group, thinking about what is being done, what still needs to be done and the timeframe

There was discussion focusing on conducting additional monitoring around water management, but it was determined that it is too late to start that process as irrigation has already started.

**ACTION:** The members to review the timeline and give input.

## 4. Proposal for additional work on Best Management Practices (BMP's).

Jim Trull corrected the Agenda, stating that TMDLS should be BMP's. He requested that this working group look at the list of BMPs that was distributed and narrow it down for the implementation phase. He would like to shorten the list to BMP's that would best affect reducing nitrated in groundwater.

**ACTION:** The IAWG to review the BMP's then edit and prioritize the list.

## 5. Miscellaneous

There was a general discussion about the need for data on irrigation use to compliment the work on nutrient management. There was general agreement but no consensus on how to do it.

**ACTION:** This topic will be added as a task at a later IAWG Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

**Resources Requested**

---

- N/A

**Recommendations for GWAC**

---

- N/A

**Deliverables/Products Status**

---

- N/A

**Proposed Next Steps**

---

- TBA