

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: February 5, 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, Ginny Prest, Laurie Crowe, Jaclyn Hancock, Kirk Cook, Dr. Troy Peters, Scott Stephen, Charlie McKinney, Jim Davenport, Vern Redifer, Frank Lyall, Ralph Fisher*, Nick Peak*, Lisa Freund, Kelly Rae, Greta Smith (Yakima County staff support)

*via telephone

Key Discussion Points

1. Review of data from 1st Round of Deep Soil Sampling. Deep Soil Sampling, 2/4/15, 2nd Revision

Jim Trull supplied the latest Revision of Deep Soil Sampling which was reviewed by participants. A member asked if there were six crop categories and it was clarified that there are four categories. Crops are categorized by rooting depths. To assure a broad data base, the fields are to be selected based rooting depth, leaching index, and irrigation application methods. It was also mentioned that commodity prices will change, which will affect nitrogen application and in five to ten years this will affect the data set. Vern explained the layout of his report offering to add additional data (leaching index, depth of the root zone, etc.) as requested.

ACTION: Vern will incorporate the additional information once it is received.

2. General Observations to present to GWAC

Jim Trull distributed a handout to the group titled “Observations by Bob Stevens and Troy Peters” and requested comment. It was emphasized that these were observations and not conclusions. A member spoke about the data received and that much improvement will be needed to get better results.

3. Report on the 2nd Round of Deep Soil Sampling

Laurie stated that for the 2nd round of Deep Soil Sampling they are anticipating at least 50 participants and have budgeted for 200 participants over four sampling periods. There will be on-site surveyors who will help complete the grower surveys to ensure better accuracy of data. Testing will start in March. A question was asked regarding analysis of the incoming data. After discussion, the group agreed there is not enough data with the current amount of surveys to perform more detailed analysis but it will take place when sufficient data is gathered.

4. Review and revise the landowner questionnaire to obtain more participation and data

Laurie requested input on the questionnaire. It was determined that Soil Testing and Frequency was left off and should be re-added. There was discussion around sprinkler type and the relevancy to the results. It was determined that the surveyor will circle the applicable sprinkler type used.

ACTION: Laurie will make discussed changes on the questionnaire for the upcoming 2nd Round of Deep Soil Sampling.

5. Status Report on Nutrient Loading Project

Kirk Cook spoke about combining the Deep Soiling Sampling questionnaire with his Nutrient Loading Project. In combining the two they will be able to get more accurate information, the information will be confidential and participants will receive two pesticide credits. This should help entice participants. He believes that 30% of the acreage in the overall GWMA area would be a realistic sampling. Instead of focusing on the number of growers, focus on the number of acres.

ACTION: Kirk will investigate if the pesticide credits can apply to the individuals participating in the Deep Soil Sampling.

6. Collection of data regarding soil nutrient applications

The group discussed how to obtain gross amount of fertilizer sold from vendors in the GWMA area. It was noted that it would be difficult to get good data as there are private vendors and numerous other users from outside of the GWMA area.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Resources Requested

- N/A

Recommendations for GWAC

- N/A

Deliverables/Products Status

- N/A

Proposed Next Steps

- TBA