

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), Rachel Little, Elizabeth Torres (Citizen), Gretchen Stewart (EPA), Mark Nielson, Nieves Negrete (Citizen), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep), Tom Eaton (GWAC-EPA), Dean Effler (Citizen), Joye Redfield-Wilder (Ecology), Wendell Hannigan (GWAC-Alternate), Stuart Turner (GWAC-Turner & Co)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2013 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Participants

Andres Cervantes, Joye Redfield-Wilder, Patricia Newhouse; Jean Mendoza - via phone; and Lisa Freund (EPO Chair -Yakima County)

Key Discussion Points

Status Report:

1. The Yakima Health District will not administer the High Risk Well Assessment Survey (Survey #1) until HDR has completed its Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA QC) protocols for data collection and entry. (Tentatively scheduled for mid-September).

Andy Cervantes explained Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA QC) to the group.

2. Heritage University began administering Public Questionnaire (survey #2) this week. Contract calls for a minimum of 120 surveys to be completed at the addresses provided by the County.

Lisa Freund, Andy Cervantes, and Gordon Kelly conducted survey training to 13 students surveyors on July 30. Students will conduct training in pairs, with one bilingual student per pair. Each student pair was supplied with a survey kit that included maps, addresses survey instruments and outreach packets. They were instructed to leave an outreach packet at each house surveyed.

QA QC: The County will only accept complete, legible surveys. Students were instructed to ensure quality control by checking that parcel numbers on the maps and surveys matched the household where the survey is being conducted. Surveys will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy by the student volunteer coordinator (Francisco Ramirez) before submitting to Heritage faculty member Jessica Black.

Jessica Black will conduct a second quality control review before submitting the surveys to Yakima County.

Jean Mendoza questioned how the quality of surveying work by Heritage would be assured, noting that she had received feedback that previous Heritage work was inaccurate and incomplete. Is anyone accompanying the students to ensure quality control?

Following extensive conversation about the students' training, and the expectations Yakima County established through the contract with Heritage University, Jean agreed to assist with quality control by conducting a telephone evaluation with households who completed the survey.

August 19, 2013 is the anticipated survey completion date.

3. The Yakima County Health District has faxed out the Healthcare Provider Letter, Questionnaire and Methemoglobinemia Handout to all area physicians several weeks ago.

4. Commissioner Rand Elliott, Andy Cervantes and Tito Rodriguez (DOH) made a presentation to the Central Washington Family Medicine Residency Program on July 18, 2013 on the GWAC, nitrate, and other health issues. Approximately 15 residents (MDs and DO's in training) attended. Rand Elliott provided an overview of the GWAC; Andy Cervantes was invited to provide information on nitrates. There was a lively discussion with a broad range of topics discussed.

5. Talking points need to be developed for September 24 Commission on Hispanic Affairs "Connect with Your Government" broadcast.

How will the \$ 1.6 million legislative allocation be spent? The question will be asked, and should be available as part of the talking points.

Resources Requested – N./A

Recommendations for GWAC - Review draft talking points (subject specific and general) at the August 15 GWAC meeting. Return suggestions prior to September 4 EPO meeting.

Deliverables/Products Status

Public Questionnaire (a.k.a. survey #number 2) is currently underway. Heritage University anticipates completion by August 19, 2013

Healthcare Provider Information and Survey (a.k.a. survey #3) is complete.

High Risk Well Assessment Survey (a.k.a. Survey #1) is slated to begin mid-September. Waiting for defined Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA QC) to be developed by HDR to begin surveying.

Proposed Next Steps

Develop talking points for September 24 Commission on Hispanic Affairs "Connect with Your Government" (Andy Cervantes and Joye Redfield-Wilder)

Develop talking points for the purpose of GWAC and engaging citizens in GMWA development by Friday, August 9 (**Lisa Freund**)

Consolidate talking points for GWAC Review at August 15 meeting (**Joye Redfield Wilder**)

Create 15 and 30 second PSAs to be aired during and around the September 24 "Connect with Your Government" broadcast. PSAs will be developed from the approved talking points. (**Lisa Freund, Joye Redfield Wilder**)

Enter Public Questionnaire results into database when results are received. (**Yakima County**)

Develop follow-up quality control questionnaire. Conduct follow-up phone calls to ask survey participants for their feedback on the survey and the surveyors (**Jean Mendoza**)

Follow up with Hispanic EPO members to encourage their participation in the EPO. (**Jean Mendoza**)

Next meeting Wednesday, September 4 at 1:30 PM, Yakima County Courthouse Room 419 (phone: 509-574-2353 [PIN 2353#])