

Education and Public Outreach Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

- Develop an EPO proposed project list and budget for the August GWAC meeting.
- Be prepared to justify how the proposal(s) support the development of the GWMA program.

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), Ignacio Marquez (AGR)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Participants

Lisa Freund (EPO Chair -Yakima County), Jean Mendoza (GWAC-FOTC), Patricia Newhouse (GWAC-Citizen Rep Position #2), Andres Cervantes (GWAC-DOH), Ignacio Marquez (AGR), Nieves Negrete (Citizen), Karri Espinoza (Yakima County staff)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Lisa Freund welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting agenda.

GWAC Feedback: Andy reported that the GWAC approved both the New Mom flyer and the Nitrate Education PowerPoint presentation on June 19. They asked for a small change on education slide #3 (delete the word “pesticide,” and change “livestock waste” to “animal manure”). The information can now be posted on the website and used by GWAC members for their own presentations.

ACTION: Andy, Ignacio and Patricia will review and edit the Spanish-language translation of the New Mom flyer and forward the final version to Lisa.

Lisa will have 2000 double-sided (English/Spanish) copies made. Nieves will receive 1000 copies to distribute at the Health Fairs in Prosser on July 18th and Yakima on July 26th. Ignacio will receive 500 which he will distribute to the community.

NEXT STEPS: on July 12 PEHSU will request endorsement from the Yakima Regional Hospital Board for the Nitrate Clinician Training program. They anticipate beginning training in Yakima and Prosser hospitals Sept 10 and 25. (Wednesdays at noon). Participants will be able to get continuing education credit for the training. EPO has asked PEHSU to provide feedback from the presentations and training to inform our own outreach.

RCIM Outreach Requests: The RCIM has requested that the EPO assist them with outreach to locate and identify abandoned wells. They are also considering a GWMA resource hotline. Lisa asked the RCIM to develop an outline of the proposals (who they want to reach, and why) and the EPO will develop the outreach strategies. The RCIM has agreed to provide project details following their next meeting.

Andy defined abandoned and decommissioned wells. Abandoned wells are no longer in use. The worst ones are basically holes in the ground. Abandoned wells need to be located and decommissioned (properly sealed off) to prevent groundwater contamination. They are also a surface safety hazard. No agency has an accurate database of wells prior to 1970 because well drillers were not required to obtain a well permit before 1970. Ecology has required permits since 1970. Andy added that a lot of information on abandoned wells and how to decommission them is available on Ecology's and other agency websites. He will send a link to Lisa for distribution.

The group discussed the EPO budget and how outreach costs would be allocated between the working groups. Questions were raised regarding who would pay for working group-specific requests. How will requests be prioritized? First-come first-served basis? Or should each working group contribute a defined amount to support outreach for all the groups? EPO also needs to set parameters (expectations) for the working groups.

ACTION: Andy will send Lisa the links to existing information on abandoned wells.

ACTION: Lisa will print Ecology's information on abandoned wells for the Health Fairs. Estimated number to be printed is 250.

ACTION: Patricia will provide copies of the deep soil sample invitation.

ACTION: Nieves will provide the names and addresses of the households she is contacting down-gradient of the Haak Dairy on behalf of the CARE (Community Association for Restoration of the Environmental) settlement. She is going door-to-door offering free well sampling and reverse osmosis systems for households that whose wells are contaminated by nitrate. She will also be doing radio shows to get the word out about CARE's project. The deadline to participate in the free sampling and treatment system offer is July 31, 2014.

2014 EPO Project List

The group brainstormed EPO priorities and developed the following list:

<u>EPO Proposals</u>	<u>GWAC Justification</u>
New Mom Flyer	To provide education to at-risk populations; provide information on GWAC and the GWMA
High Risk Well Assessment (ongoing)	Problem identification. Data collection. Health Education. Monitoring the implementation plan.
Ongoing Quarterly Well Monitoring	Problem identification. Data collection. Monitoring the implementation plan.
Deep Soil Sampling Outreach [placeholder]	Problem identification. Data collection
RCIM Abandoned Wells and Septic System Maintenance Outreach	Problem identification.
RCIM Resource Hotline	To provide education and technical assistance. Provide information on the GWAC, GWMA and refer customers to appropriate technical assistance.
Outreach Coordinator Position	Education/General Outreach. Monitoring the implementation plan.
Duties – Keep Track of data how many home contacted? how many times have they been targeted? who has been missed? Information Sharing GWAC Nitrate - Who's at Risk Well Testing Health Impacts Of Nitrates Measureable Outcomes Contacts made – meetings/town hall One-on-ones	

The group discussed how they would measure the success of an outreach position. The group identified quantifiable outcomes (number of wells tested, number of treatment systems purchased). They noted that households with high nitrate levels should be tested seasonally (quarterly). They discussed who would define the coordinator's tasks. The majority agreed the task list should come from the EPO; one member noted that Vern Redifer should provide the direction.

They questioned if this position would coordinate work with Jim Davenport and get guidance from the EPO only. If other groups requested outreach they would need to go through the EPO. The person filling this position needs to have the ability to communicate at all levels and a variety of subjects. Technical outreach regarding best management practices and rule making would likely require a separate position.

Questions remained meet regarding Jim Davenport's role and how/if he would be involved with outreach.

ACTION: Lisa will put together a draft budget for all the proposals **except** the ongoing well monitoring (Andy Cervantes). She will refer back to the group's original low-medium-high budget as a starting point. She will distribute the low-medium-high budget to the EPO before the next meeting.

ACTION: Andy will develop a budget for the ongoing well monitoring proposal and submit it to Lisa before the August 1 EPO meeting.

Resources Requested

None.

Recommendations for GWAC

Approve the EPO's final project list and budget

Proposed Next Steps – August Meeting Topics

- Discuss, finalize and approve the project list and budget
- [placeholder] New Mom Outreach

Next meeting Friday, August 1, 2014 at 1:30 PM, Yakima County Courthouse Room 419 (phone: 509-574-2353 [PIN# 2353#])