

Irrigated Agriculture Working Group

Charge (or Assignment) from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

None at this time

Working Group Members

Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Dr. Troy Peters (WSU) Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Trull (Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Lonna Frans (U.S. Geological Survey), Ralph Fisher (EPA), Ron Cowin (SVID), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co.), Thomas Tebb (Department of Ecology), Ginny Prest (Dept of Ag), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Scott Stephen (Citizen), Mike Shuttleworth (Citizen), Chelsea Durfey (Citizen), Lino Guerra (Citizen), Doug Simpson (Farmer), Ali Sedighi (Yakima County staff support)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 2013 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: KDNA Granger

Participants

Jim Trull, Stuart Turner, Dr. Troy Peters, Jean Mendoza, Ginny Prest, Pony Ellingson (Pacific Groundwater Group), Don Gatchalian (Yakima County staff support)

Key Discussion Points

- The Work Group met after the consultant HDR/PGG's presentation.
- First item of business was to select a Chairperson to replace Mark Nielsen. Recognized and appreciated Mark Nielson's contribution.
- Jim Trull was nominated to be the Chairperson by Troy Peters. Jim accepted and the Work Group unanimously agreed.
- Conversated on where the Irrigated Ag Work Group was - the last meeting, what was discussed, and what needed to be done.
- Irrigated Ag Work Group had two previous meetings (January and April); contributed to developing the scope of work for deep soil sampling; reviewed and commented on the draft BMP/Regulatory Scope of Work, and; reviewed and commented on the initial characterization assessment developed by the Data Work Group.

- Discussed the future role of the Irrigated Ag Work Group and how to assist the consultant HDR/PGG. The Work Group will have to keep up with the consultant and will need to review and comment on draft documents. Deep soil sampling is important for providing historical trend analysis and time sequence and will be very beneficial analyzing baseline, capacity, etc. Shallower soil sampling will be important to track plant utilization and adherence to nutrient BMPs.
- The BMP effectiveness study should also include economic impacts, buy-in or support from the users, etc. The best way is to define the goal/s of the BMPs, e.g., how to motivate the growers to use the BMP. Discussed using “carrot versus stick” approach.
- Discussed the importance of getting input from the agricultural producers and getting their point of view and potential impacts of GWMA to them. (On this note – Ginny Prest has talked with persons associated with mint production and will be able to provide some information; she has also made a new contact in the corn production world and hope to provide some additional information regarding corn production in Yakima Valley as well.)
- Pony Ellingson of PGG provided Columbia Basin GWMA information on their deep soil sampling over a decade ago. They covered over 100 fields, 600 to 700 sampling locations, at a cost of \$100,000 annually for five years. They decided that the data not be made public and used as an educational tool.
- Ginny Prest of Department of Ag presented briefly her observation of the Department of Agriculture’s dairy inspection and enforcement program. About 7 years ago, only 35 percent of dairies were meeting established threshold. In the last couple of years 87 percent of dairies are meeting the established threshold. There is significant progress and more still needs to get done.
- The April 2013 meeting recommended Irrigation Water Management and Deep Soil Sampling for early implementation activities. The Deep Soil Sampling is included in the HDR/PGG contract.
- During the April 2013 Work Group meeting, it was agreed to have interaction with the following work groups: (a) CAFO/Livestock, (b) Residential/Commercial/Industrial, and (c) Data

Resources Requested

- None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

- None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

- None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

- The next meeting is scheduled as a one-hour conference call on Thursday, August 1st at 3:00 P.M. The call-in number is **(509) 574-2353**. PIN is **2353#**
- Meet or discuss with the consultant and ask what they need from the Irrigated Ag Work Group
- Meet or discuss with other work groups, in particular the Data Work Group and ask what they need from the Irrigated Ag Group
- Prepare agenda for next meeting
- Clean up membership list of the committee (if possible)