

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, August 1, 2013 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Conference Call (509) 574-2353, PIN 2353#

Participants

Jim Trull, Doug Simpson, Laurie Crowe, Ginny Prest, Pony Ellingson and Steve Swope (Pacific Groundwater Group), Ralph Fischer (EPA), Ali Sedighi and Don Gatchalian (Yakima County staff support)

Key Discussion Points

- Jim introduced Doug Simpson as a new work group member.
- Discussed briefly the Draft Technical Memorandum No. 1 and reminder that the deadline for comments was August 2nd. Requested copy of the draft document be provided as a Word document to work group members.
- Reviewed HDR/PGG scope of work and schedule. Steve and Pony provided summary.
- Discussed Deep Soil Sampling study and the adequacy of 20 samples which is in HDR/PGG's contract. The 20 samples will provide a quick snap shot of nitrate contamination and is not intended to be in the same magnitude or scope as Columbia Basin GWMA deep soil sampling study. The Columbia Basin GWMA's deep soil sampling was used to determine BMP effectiveness, primarily for growers' educational purposes, and was not meant to be made public. The consensus was that the subcommittee should investigate ways of accessing the data while not divulging the site

from which the samples were taken. Absent the confidentiality, the members felt that getting producers to allow access would be difficult.

- This initial program is to determine current condition, and to determine size and scope of an expanded program. Discussed the dividing line between the work of Livestock/CAFO and Irrigated Ag workgroups. The consensus was the Livestock/CAFO will address the area within the AFO/CAFO. Once the nutrients leave the site and nutrients are land applied, this becomes Irrigated Ag work group's scope. The proposed dividing line will be suggested to the Livestock/ CAFO Workgroup for their reaction.
- Reviewed the work group's membership and discussed the need for fertilizer industry representation and nutrient scientist. There was consensus to invite Gordon Kenyon from Crop Production Services in Toppenish and a representative from Simplot in Sunnyside. It is anticipated that both representatives will provide input on irrigation water management. It was suggested to ask WSU - Prosser if a nutrient management specialist is available to serve on the Irrigated Agriculture Subcommittee.

Resources Requested

- One-hour monthly meetings by conference call appear to be satisfactory. There was discussion using videoconferencing or GoToMeeting. Yakima County will investigate.
- Ralph Fischer of EPA due to travel restrictions requested phone access during regular GWAC monthly meetings. Yakima County will provide phone access.

Recommendations for GWAC

- None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

- None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, on Thursday, September 5th, by conference call. The call-in number is **(509) 574-2353**. PIN is **2353#**
- Ginny Prest will contact Simplot for a subcommittee representative.
- Jim Trull will contact Gordon Kenyon to serve on the subcommittee and will contact WSU about a plant nutrient specialist.
- Prepare agenda for next meeting. Agenda topics need to be sent to Jim Trull and copy Yakima County.