

Irrigated Ag Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

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)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Conference Call: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Thursday, September 5, 2013

Participants

Jim Trull, Jean Mendoza, Stephen Swope, Pony Ellingson, Ginny Prest, Don Jameson, Scott Stephen, Dave Frazier, Rosalio Brambila, Ralph Fisher, Laurie Crowe, Frank Lyle, Jim Trull, Doug Simpson, Frank Lyall, and Troy Ross-Havens

Key Discussion Points

Agenda:

- Discuss Irrigated Ag Working Group membership – New members
 - Status of Dave Frazier as a member or from a fertilizer group
 - Status of Gordon Kenyon as a member
 - Status of a WSU plant nutrient specialist
 - Status of NRCS staff as a member – Leigh Nelson
- Review Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan and prepare for discussion
- Discuss meeting with Livestock/CAFO on Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan scope and budget, then make recommendation to the GWAC.
- Review WAC 173-100
- Decide next meeting

Discuss Irrigated Ag Working Group membership – New members

New members were briefly introduced by name and background/occupation. Next Working Group meeting, the group will meet in person for formal introductions of new and current members.

Review Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan and prepare for discussion

Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG) went through the plan with the group explaining notable elements of the Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan (DSSP). The working group discussed the purpose of the plan, its origins, timeline, data attributes, farm selection criteria, nitrate leaching indexes, crop selection matrices, grower reimbursement plans, land use, optimal time for soil sampling, crop rotations within the GWMA, sample quantities and costs, nitrate mobilization, technical soil sampling procedures and locations, and equal opportunity for grower participation.

It was suggested that the DSSP is rearranged to immediately analyze existing agricultural data which consists of geography, soil, irrigation type, crop set, and nitrate source to determine how to allocate samples for the initial plan. That data would be analyzed amongst the different categories to develop a nitrate leaching index, which is critical in deciding on which farms to evaluate during the spring of 2014.

The group proposed to increase level of targeting and upfront samples to allocate for field types. PGG cited 3 or 4 different indexes that use field attributes to generate an index number. Soil and irrigation type is common to all samples. PGG inquired the group's opinion about which leaching index would be most suitable for the GWMA, and will provide an email with links and summaries of each index to the Working Group.

Discuss meeting with LSCAFO on DSS Scope and budget, then make recommendation to GWAC

No discussion

Review Washington Administrative Code 173-100

No discussion

Decide next meeting

The next Irrigated Ag Working Group Meeting will be Thursday, Sept 19 at the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Boardroom in Sunnyside, Washington from 2:30-4:30 PM.

Resources Requested

None at this time.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.

Deliverables/Products Status

- Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan under review

Proposed Next Steps

- Submit comments on Draft Deep Soil Sampling Plan to Pacific Groundwater Group
- Select a Nitrate Leaching Index method