

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

South Yakima Conservation District office – 200 Cheyne Road – Zillah, WA 98953

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM Thursday, October 24, 2013

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

Participants

Dave Fraser, Don Jameson, Frank Lyall, Ginny Prest, Jim Trull, Laurie Crowe, Jean Mendoza, Rosalio Brambila, Scott Stephen, Pony Ellingson, Chelsea Durfey*, Ginny Prest*, Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County staff support)

*participated via telephone

Key Discussion Points

Pony Ellingson with Pacific Groundwater Group began the meeting with the draft sample allocation method (Task 3) that has been in development for a few months now. Pony began by explaining the 3D matrix that will be used to facilitate the selection of sample allocation efforts. This matrix will include model inputs such as crop type, irrigation type, nitrate leaching potential and crop acreage. The goal of the sample allocation method is to categorize each candidate field to be tested by the average NRCS leaching potential, crop type and irrigation type, and by weighting the sample distribution based on acres in each category.

The group reviewed methods for grouping crop types into categories for the allocation method, methods for the grouping of irrigation types, NRCS leaching potential categorization and weighting for heterogeneous soils within the LYV GWMA. General consensus was reached by the group that rooting depths published by the NRCS in 1997 will be used to categorize crop type within the 3D matrix. These rooting depth categories include less than 2.5 feet, 2.5 up to 4 feet, and more than 4 feet. The IAWG reviewed the Irrigation type efficiency data published by the NRCS part 652 that categorizes irrigation methods and condensed them into three types of

general methods (drips, sprinklers, and surface application) that will be used to categorize irrigation types within the 3D matrix. The group will need further discussion and possibly preliminary modeling efforts to determine whether 3 or 4 leaching potential values will be used from the NRCS Web Soil Survey tool. A lively discussion occurred focused on the difficulty in quantifying the amount of water that an individual farmer applies to a field. It was noted that in the LYV GWMA, often there is more than one field per irrigation delivery, and more than one irrigation delivery per field. Water is sometimes applied to a crop by more than one method and for more than one purpose.

After discussing the draft sample allocation method, the group moved on to reviewing the draft BMP summary which was tasked to the group by Mike Murray of HDR during the October GWAC meeting. After much deliberation regarding the specific goals and objectives associated with this task, the group tabled further discussion, which generally was driven by the lack of time left in the meeting and the uncertainty of the group's role in this task.

The next Irrigated Ag Working Group meeting will be held on November 21st, at a particular time before the 5:00PM GWAC Meeting that has yet to be determined.

Resources Requested

None at this time.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.