

Irrigated Ag Working Group (IAWG)

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Working Group Members

Dr. Troy Peters (WSU), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Trull (Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control), Ralph Fisher (EPA), Ron Cowin (SVID), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co.), Tom Tebb (Department of Ecology), Ginny Prest (Dept of Ag), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Dave Fraser (Simplot Agronomist), Scott Stephen (Citizen), Donald Jameson (Citizen), Mike Shuttleworth (Citizen), Chelsea Durfey (Citizen), Doug Simpson (Farmer), Rosario Brambila (Farm Manager)

Meeting/Call Date

Where: KDNA Granger – 121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger, Washington

When: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Thursday, June 19, 2014

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

Participants

Jim Trull (Chair), Dan McCarty, Don Jameson, Ginny Prest, Jean Mendoza, Ralph Fisher (by phone), Tom Tebb, Stuart Turner, Don Gatchalian (Yakima County staff support)

Key Discussion Points

Agenda:

1. Review Irrigated Ag Work Group Schedule
2. Review and Edit Bid Documents for Deep Soil Sampling
3. Review for Information Newsletter Inviting Participation in Deep Soil Sampling
4. Review for Information Growers Questionnaire
5. Review for Information Interlocal Agreement Between South Yakima Conservation District and Yakima County
6. Other Items to be Brought Before the Workgroup

1. Review Irrigated Ag Work Group Schedule

The working group discussed the schedule for 2014. Key dates are as follows:

- June 29 - SYCD advertises for bids for testing lab and sampler

- July 6 – SYCD advertises for bids for testing lab and sampler
- July 9 – SYCD signs Interlocal agreement (ILA) with YC
- July 18 – Bid opening at 1:30 PM at SYCD Office
- July 21-24 - Review bids for accuracy and competency
- July 22 – Yakima County BOCC signs ILA
- July 25 – SYCD Board Meeting and Award of Bid
- September 1 – Begin Sampling as harvest allows

ACTION: SYCD and YC to sign the ILA. SYCD will start the sampling in September.

2. Review and Edit Bid Documents for Deep Soil Sampling

The working group reviewed the Bid Documents. There was discussion about the adequacy of the number of samples and boring sites not being adequate. For budget and bid purposes, 50 boring sites per season for 4 seasons (total of 200 for two years) was a compromised number and will be adjusted if the grower response is higher. Soil samples will be taken at every foot up to 6 feet deep (6 samples per boring site). There was also discussion about bid and performance bond not in the bid package. YC and SYCD will look at this and make appropriate changes to the Bid Documents.

ACTION: Don will provide Laurie a template of Yakima County's personal services contract for reference.

3. Review for Information Newsletter Inviting Participation in Deep Soil Sampling

The newsletter was sent out several weeks ago and SYCD received many calls inquiring about the program. Between the three SYCD employees, they estimated more than 20 calls were received. Additional public outreach is planned with the assistance of the EPO Working Group. Laurie reported that they will have a booth during the August Grandview Fair on the Deep Soil Sampling Program.

ACTION: Laurie and Jim will contact Lisa Freund for public outreach assistance.

4. Review for Information Growers Questionnaire

Jim thanked all the people who assisted in developing and reviewing the grower questionnaire.

ACTION: None

5. Review for Information Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Between South Yakima Conservation District and Yakima County

The ILA has been finalized and has been through legal review by Yakima County's legal office. The budget estimate is \$245,025.00 which includes SYCD administration costs, advertising, travel, sampling and lab costs.

ACTION: None. The document is final and ready for signatures by SYCD and YC.

6. Other Items:

- a. Ontario Study - The working group discussed the relevance of the Ontario (Groundwater Canada) news article provided by Kirk Cook to the efforts of GWAC and IAWG. Tom Tebb commented that the article showed promise that behavior can be changed if you know what you are doing. Tom also thanked the working group for their hard work to get the deep soil sampling program implemented.
- b. 2015-16 State Biennium Budget – Tom Tebb challenged the group to start thinking about the budget beyond 2015. The legislature meets every January and is it not too early to think about additional budget needs.
- c. Bid Opening – Laurie will solicit a couple of working group members to help in reviewing the bids on July 21-24
- d. Data Analysis - Jean Mendoza asked who will analyze the data that is being gathered. The response was PgG is developed the nitrate database as part of their contract. SYCD will enter the information collected from the deep soil sampling program in the database. All the efforts being done by the EPO, HD and others are being collected in the database. Ultimately the Data Working Group chaired by Kirk Cook who will need to look at the database for analysis.

Resources Requested

Recommendations for GWAC

Deliverables/Products Status

Next Meeting

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Thursday, August 21, 2014, KDNA Granger