

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, August 21, 2014

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

Participants

Jim Trull (Chair), Laurie Crowe, Scott Stephen, Troy Peters, Doug Simpson, Frank Lyall, Ginny Prest, Jean Mendoza, Ralph Fisher (by phone), Jim Davenport, Lisa Freund, Mary Wurtz (Yakima County staff support)

Key Discussion Points

Agenda:

1. Review Deep Soil Sampling Plan Schedule and Status
2. Discuss Status of the Interlocal Agreement between Yakima County and South Yakima Conservation District
3. Report on Contract for Deep Soil Sampling
4. Review budget submitted to Yakima County
5. Other business

Discussion:

Deep Soil Sampling Plan Schedule

Laurie Crowe reviewed the Deep Soil Sampling Bid Proposal outcomes, noting that there were only two bidders. Only one proposal was complete. The proposal came in higher

than estimated. The contract was awarded to Landau Associates; Northwest Associates of Kennewick will conduct the lab work.

Report on Contract for Deep Soil Sampling (DSS)

30 growers have signed up to participate so far, with a variety of crops (row crops, alfalfa, wine grapes, fruit trees) represented. The newspaper ran another article reminding growers to sign up. 15 questionnaires were distributed at the Grandview Fair; feedback at that event indicated that people don't want to participate in [the present] lawsuit environment.

Jean Mendoza inquired who – and how – the higher bid amount for the DSS was approved. Jim Trull explained that both time and money were considered; if the project had been re-bid (time) the GWAC would have lost yet another year before conducting the deep soil sampling. Jim Davenport agreed, noting that time lost was more expensive than a higher contract amount. He added that the County was the ultimate decision-maker regarding the contract amount.

Jean asked who was on the bid proposal technical advisory committee. Participants included Laurie Crowe, Ralph Fisher, Bob Stevens and Ginny Prest. Others were invited but were not available.

Jim Trull stated that sampling will start within the next few weeks and continue through October. Sampling is conducted after harvest, and before nutrients are applied.

Budget Proposal

The budget was discussed and agreement reached as follows:

1. ILA - South Yakima Conservation District and Yakima County \$394,563 (Done)
note: Deep Soil Sampling is a major component of the ILA.
2. 100 Additional Deep Soil Sampling (DSS): \$150,000
note: The additional samples were added to the original proposal (of 200 samples), based on concerns that the sample size was too small.
3. Grower Workshops: \$7000
note: based on Columbia Basin GWMA experience, workshops are good value for the money. The more workshops you hold, the more participants you will get.
4. Mobile Lab: \$350,000
 - a. Pickup with canopy or trailer: \$11,320
 - b. Technician: \$100,000 (8 Months for 2 Seasons)
note: staff time extended from 6 months to 8 months to cover tasks associated with the full season.
 - c. Summer Intern: \$40,000 (6-8 Months for 2 Seasons)
note: time extended from 3 months to 6-8 months to cover tasks associated with the full season.

- d. Nutrient Analysis: \$50,000 (100 Fields@\$250 per Field)
Note: revised down from 125 fields, and from \$400 per field. Lower cost reflects composite sampling at less depth.
- e. Soil Moisture Probes: \$187,500 (250 fields@\$1500 per field)
note: assumes grower cost-sharing of up to 70% for the moisture probes.

*TOTAL BUDGET: \$950,000

*At Jim Davenport's recommendation, budget was rounded to \$950,000.

ACTION: Jim Trull will present the budget at tonight's GWAC meeting for its consideration and approval.

Resources Requested

N/A

Recommendations for GWAC

Approve IAWG's proposals and budget

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposals and budget have been approved by the working group.

Next Meeting

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Thursday, September 18, 2014, KDNA Granger