

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Create the 2014 Livestock/CAFO Task List

Working Group Members

Charlie McKinney, Chair (Department of Ecology), Kirk Cook (Department of Agriculture), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Helen Reddout (CARE), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Patricia Newhouse (Citizen), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2014 5:00-7:00 pm

Location: Radio KDNA – Granger, Washington

Participants

Charlie McKinney (Ecology) Steve George (Farm Bureau), Sue Wedam (YVCC-Lower Valley), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Larry Fendell (Citizen), Jean Mendoza (FOTC), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County Staff Support), and Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County Staff Support)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Charlie McKinney welcomed the group and presented an overview of the agenda. This consisted of lining out tasks by next meeting for their contribution to the GWAC.

Task List from 2013 Work Plan:

Charlie referenced upcoming tasks from Work Plan items 2.1.1a. and 2.1.1b to spark group discussion. The group identified the following 5 tasks for 2014 relating to potential nitrate sources from Livestock/CAFO operations:

- Field application of manure
- Corrals and pens
- Seepage from manure storage lagoons
- Compost yard and storage areas
- Solid manure storage areas

The group identified that it would be best to start out by collecting any existing information or data from previous studies to develop a background on the aforementioned potential nitrate sources from which the group could expand on. Group members discussed that each location in the LYV GWMA would be different for each potential source, meaning that site specific conditions would play a large role on how samples would be collected or sources would be categorized. It would not be feasible to sample each location from each Livestock/CAFO due to funds and timing. The group intends to pursue relevant conditions that would contribute to nitrate leaching in each of the five potential sources to consider in the deep soil sampling plan.

ACTION: Charlie McKinney to determine milestones on tasks identified in the 2014 Task List prior to the next GWAC meeting.

Regarding manure and compost spread onto irrigated cropland, the group felt that this source would be under the Irrigated Agriculture Working Group's (IAWG) purview. Jean Mendoza mentioned that as part of the IAWG, she noted that nitrogen source and application rate has not been at the top of IAWG's priority list when considering the deep soil sampling plan guidelines.

ACTION: Charlie McKinney to coordinate with Jim Trull on the purview of compost application to irrigated croplands.

Charlie McKinney mentioned that the EPA will soon have data regarding EPA's efforts on lagoons within the dairy cluster. The group is hoping that EPA will share this data with the GWAC in helping determine existing conditions and current nitrate transport occurring within the dairy cluster, and how it might relate to the LYV GWMA.

The group made it very clear that when the GWMA has conducted its research and developed a GWMA plan, that the GWAC needs to be able to say that all of the important sources have been addressed, and no bias or misrepresentation has occurred.

A discussion was held on lagoons, which led to questions pertaining to lagoon parameters. Through the efforts of data collection the GWAC intends to conduct, the group would like to identify certain lagoon parameters that may lead to elevated concentrations of nitrate in groundwater, and how they can be fixed over time.

Steve George suggested that the working group recruit the hydrologist that participated in the EPA study to give a presentation on findings related to the Roza dairy cluster, if in fact said hydrologist was legally able and willing to do so. This might bring light to identifying potential similarities and differences within the Roza area and the LYV GWMA, as well as potentially give insight on what might be occurring in the LYV GWMA.

ACTION: Charlie McKinney to follow up with Tom on data and confidentiality of such a partnership.

The group thought it might be a valuable tool to have a presentation about composting, and how it would be best to sample compost sites.

ACTION: Charlie McKinney to check on composting requirements relating to testing and/or monitoring and a possible presentation on composting and applicable regulations.

Potential Groundwater Monitoring Stations Document from PGG:

Charlie introduced to the group the Potential Groundwater Monitoring Stations Document from PGG, and applauded it's completeness. Charlie mentioned that the document has identified and plotted a vast amount of data relating to previous nitrate groundwater testing efforts from various entities, as well as identifying 5 areas that have data gaps in nitrate testing. The goal of the document is to guide in establishing a groundwater monitoring network that can be used over time.

Donald Gatchalian mentioned that under HDR's contract with Yakima County, they are responsible for one workshop with the GWAC, and suggested that the review of the Best Management Practices summary, as well as the Potential Groundwater Monitoring Stations document to be examined and reviewed during a joint working group meeting to include Livestock/CAFO, Irrigated Agriculture, and the Data Collection and Monitoring Working Group.

ACTION: Donald G. to contact HDR regarding this joint meeting, proposed for March 6th.

Resources Requested

None at this time.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.

Deliverables/Products Status

Task Spread Sheet will be submitted to Penny by 2/13.

Proposed Next Steps

Complete milestones from tasks identified during this meeting

Coordinate with Irrigated Ag on composting practices

Coordinate with EPA on dairy data

Research composting facility monitoring requirements

Coordinate with HDR and other working groups for the proposed workshop