

Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Municipal Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

None at this time

Working Group Members

Robert Farrell – Chair (Port of Sunnyside), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchey (Yakama Nation), Gordon Kelly (Yakima Health District), Jan Whitetfoot (Concerned Citizens of Yakama Reservation), Jim Dyjak (Citizen), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co0, Tom Ring (Yakama Nation), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County), Ali Sedighi (Yakima County staff support)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 2013 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: KDNA Granger

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, John Van Wingerden, Ali Sedighi

Key Discussion Points

This was the first meeting of this work group and they met after a presentation by HDR and Pacific Groundwater Group about the work they will be doing for the GWMA. The RCIM group will meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. in 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932 (Radio KNDN). Yakima County will make necessary arrangements to reserve a room for future meetings. The group discussed the HDR/PgG presentation and talked about potential sources of nitrate related to this work group including septic and sewage tanks, hobby farms, lawns and gardens, golf courses, food processing plants, and wastewater treatment facilities.

Almost everyone in rural areas has septic system. Yakima Health District has data that shows the location of septic tanks along with other information (e.g. size, depth, direction of drainfield, etc). It is important to find out if there is a correlation between high nitrate concentrations and the number of septic tanks in nitrate “hot spots”. There are rules and regulation for the location of the septic tanks (e.g. septic tanks must be at least 100’ away from water wells). However, there are no criteria for the vertical distance of a septic tank relative to groundwater table.

It was discussed that commercial agriculture does a better job than private gardens in nutrient management and education is an important factor to solve this problem.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

- Discuss Work Plan progress and milestone for the RCIM work group to make sure progress is being made in developing the work plan
- Discuss other potential sources of nitrate related to this work group
- Coordinate with HDR/PgG to find out what information they might need from this working group (e.g. location and other information about septic tanks, etc)
- Discuss coordination with other work groups