

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 Whitefoot (Concerned Citizens of Yakama Reservation), Jim Dyjak (Citizen), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co), Tom Ring (Yakama Nation), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County), Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County staff support)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: KDNA Granger
121 Sunnyside Avenue
Granger, Washington

Conference Call: (509)574-2353, PIN# 2353 (for those unable to attend in person)

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, John Van Wingerden, Kathleen Rogers, Steve Swope (Pacific Groundwater Group), and Troy Ross-Havens (County support staff)

Key Discussion Points

Agenda:

1. RCIM contribution to GWAC

The group began by discussing RCIM's future involvement within the GWAC, and how much effort should be put forth regarding "all other sources" not including irrigated agriculture or livestock/CAFO. Steve referenced an EPA report that identified nearly 2/3 of nitrate in the valley

associated with Dairy, approximately 1/3 associated with crops, and only 3% associated with all other sources, which led to the question, “how much effort and resources should be put into this catch-all group termed RCIM in the LYV GWMA?” Are resources better spent in areas that have previously been found to have more nitrates associated with them? Is it worthy to consider disbanding the RCIM Working Group and reassigning its members to Irrigated Ag or Livestock/CAFO? It was suggested that the group should remain in existence to provide quality assurance and quality control. The Data Working Group is currently developing a nitrate loading budget plan that includes RCIM-type categories such as sewer lines, biosolids, septic tanks, etc. The RCIM group will assist in assuring all sources have been identified as well as providing comment and suggestion on data collection protocol, as well as providing an initial checklist to be included in the budget.

2. RCIM role and existence

Discussion content of agenda items 1 and 2 were very similar. The group decided, with support from Steve Swope, that they will remain in existence for the time being to review and comment on the Nitrate Loading Budget being developed by the Data Collection Working Group. RCIM will provide technical support and quality control to the GWAC. Following the above activity, the group’s existence would then be brought to the GWAC for further direction.

3. Review and comment: Draft Initial BMP Database presented by Mike Murray (HDR) during October’s GWAC meeting

The RCIM group generally agreed that each of the objectives and management targets presented in Sections 3-6 were applicable to the LYV GWMA. Comment was raised during discussion associated with Sources 3 and 6, that public education and outreach would be best suited for cooperation, rather than enacting additional regulations.

The group discussed the creation of a checklist that would be presented to the GWAC as a rough draft in December. The members will perform individual research, then summarize and compile their findings in the November working group meeting. It was suggested that reports previously conducted throughout the country will be utilized to collect ideas and determine if they are applicable to the LYV GWAC.

4. Review and comment: Nitrate Loading Assessment Talk given by Kirk Cook during October’s GWAC meeting

A short discussion was held regarding Kirk Cook’s Nitrate Loading Assessment presentation. The group recommends the higher level of assessment that was proposed by Kirk.

5. Schedule next RCIM Working Group meeting

The next RCIM Working Group meeting will be held at KDNR Granger on November 21 at 1:30PM – 2:30PM.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

High level of modeling for the Nitrate Loading Assessment

Deliverables/Products Status

None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

- Provide the Data Collection Working Group a checklist of “all other sources” that encompasses the scope of the RCIM Working Group.
- Review and comment on the Nitrate Loading Budget as necessary.