

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 Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Gordon Kelly (Yakima Health District), Jan Whitefoot (Concerned Citizens of Yakama Reservation), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co), Tom Ring (Yakama Nation), Kathleen Rogers (Citizen), Sanjay Barik (Ecology), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County)

Meetings/Calls Dates

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

When: 10:00am – 11:30am Thursday, February 27, 2014

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

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, Dan Degroot, Kathleen Rogers, *Pony Ellingson, *Don Gatchalian (Yakima County support staff), and Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County support staff)

* Participated by telephone

Key Discussion Points

Agenda:

1. Consultant Contract Amendment 2 Scope of Services

During the last GWAC meeting (2/20/14) the RCIM chair proposed for consultant work to create a spatial database of residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal nitrogen sources in the LYV GWMA that could also be expanded to include other LYV GWMA nitrogen

sources such Irrigated Ag and the Livestock/CAFO. This was ultimately approved by the GWAC to develop a final scope for approval. The RCIM group discussed the *Consulting Services for the Lower Yakima Valley GWAC Amendment No. 2* drafted by HDR that includes *Attachment 1: PGG RCIM Nitrate Database and Loading Calculation Scope of Services Amendment No. 2*.

The working group went through the document and made changes as they saw fit. Pony with PGG participated via conference line and acknowledged the changes, and stated that the changes would be incorporated in the final Scope of Services Amendment. In particular, it was requested that the Data Collection and Monitoring Chair be involved in reviewing/approving the Nitrate Database structure, as this database would fall under the Purview of the Data Working Group. In addition, the sentence generally stating that RCIM sources contributing to nitrates in groundwater is likely minor is to be omitted. RCIM will not draw any conclusions before analysis has been completed.

ACTION: Pony E. to draft final Technical Memorandum regarding the Revised Nitrate Database and Loading Calculation Scope.

It was noted that the Nitrate Database would be a dynamic document not to be set in stone, but rather have the capability to be expanded as requested by the other working groups.

Concern was raised regarding the fee associated with Amendment No. 2 proposed by HDR and PGG. Don G. acknowledged this concern and dedicated himself to reviewing details not presented in the Amendment.

ACTION: Don G. to coordinate with consultants on fees associated with Amendment No. 2, as well as development of the final scope.

Regarding fertilizer calculations to be included in the Nitrate Database and Loading Calculation Scope of Services Amendment, local and/or regional data would be favored over nationally published data. Don suggested to the consultant that local fertilizer specialist(s) that participate(s) in the Irrigated Agriculture Working Group be contacted for further information.

ACTION: Don G. to forward contact information for the aforementioned fertilizer specialist(s).

One member mentioned their concern for abandoned or poorly constructed wells' potential to pollute. How do we calculate or quantify the risk or potential risk these facilities present? The Department of Ecology obtains data from wells constructed generally beginning in the early 1970's, but information on wells prior to this era is limited or unknown. The Health District's current well survey has the potential to shed light on questions of this nature. The potential pollution by a septic system near a poorly constructed or abandoned well should

also be considered. The group felt it might be important to consider researching the offset distance of local septic systems with wells containing high nitrates.

It was suggested by a working group member that well locations could be incorporated into the database. The consultant replied that the geographic scales associated with data used in loading calculations is broad (down to fields and parcels) whereas the scale required to assess the relation between a particular septic field and a well is very fine (feet) and that level of detail is not available without field work. The current Scope of Services is only for the loading calculations.

2. Supplemental Task X

A supplemental Task X was brought up during the last GWAC meeting regarding a review and summary of recent nitrogen balance projects. The intent of this task is two-fold. It is expected that this task will establish a background level of understanding and expectation to come out of the various nitrogen balance tasks. This will provide background on different approaches used recently in characterizing nitrogen balance within GWMA. The deliverable is identified as a PowerPoint slide presentation of calculations and explanations on nitrogen balance methods. Secondly, the PowerPoint slide presentation would be followed by a group discussion either through a joint working group meeting or GWAC setting, where a working group chair would lead the discussion to begin gathering thoughts and developing a strategy on how the nitrogen balance should be conducted in the LYV GWMA. The working group reached a consensus that the proposed Supplemental Task X on nutrient budget should be discussed in the Data Collection and Monitoring Working Group because the proposal affects the other nitrate source working groups – Irrigated Ag and Livestock/CAFO.

It was suggested that the GWMA areas studied under this task be similar in characteristic as the LYV GWMA. Pony stated that a background on economy and climate will be included in the review. Demographics were noted as an important qualifier for GWMA study areas to be consistent with the LYV GWMA.

One group member brought up the potential task to characterize or identify how smaller unincorporated areas handle water supply and sewage treatment. Pony replied by suggesting that the scope remain as it was approved by the GWAC, and that other tasks can be considered at a later date.

The group reached consensus that the proposed Supplemental Task X be moved forward and Scope of Services to be drafted by the consultants to be approved by the GWAC.

ACTION: Don G. to coordinate with PGG and HDR to obtain final revision of this task to be included in the Contract Amendment.

3. Discuss Ecology and Health District data collection efforts

Gordon K. presented his findings on last meetings action item of researching Yakima Health District's septic database. He reported identifying 16,826 file records for permits with the identifier of "septic" which generally date back to 1975. It is important to note that the 16,826 file records have the potential to present multiple hits on the same septic system as permits to modify or alter the same system could have occurred in addition to the original permit to install. In addition, these files were generated at the range, township and in some cases; section scale. The group felt that this milestone is complete, and the data should be disseminated as necessary.

ACTION: Troy R-H. to distribute Gordon's findings as necessary.

Gordon also presented recently completed results of on-site sewage nitrogen removal technologies projects conducted by the Department of Health. Average removal of these systems ranged from 69% to 92% total nitrogen removal. Summary sheets for these three projects can be accessed by internet at the following addresses:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4450/337-117-VRGF.pdf>
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4450/337-115-ERGF.pdf>
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4450/337-116-RGFW.pdf>

The participating representative from the Department of Ecology was not present during this meeting. It is assumed that Ecology data is being collected, but Bob F. stated that he would check on Sanjay and Traci's efforts.

ACTION: Bob F. to inquire the status of Department of Ecology data collection efforts.

4. Other Items

RCIM will participate in next week's Education and Public Outreach Working Group's meeting. The intent of this meeting is to begin to identify public outreach needs associated with RCIM sources. Although the RCIM has very limited data to consider for public outreach, suggestions for potential outreach included septic tank maintenance, abandoned wells, and fertilizer applications for golf/school/church fields.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

- Task X to be presented to the GWAC
- RCIM approves the Scope of Services subject to some minor changes.

Deliverables/Products Status

- Health District data collection complete
- Department of Ecology data expected next month

Proposed Next Steps

- Next RCIM meeting to occur on March 27, 2014 @ 10:00am
 - KDNA Granger Facility
- Carry out action items identified through the course of today's RCIM meeting