

## Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Municipal (RCIM) Working Group

### **Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee**

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2014 Task List Items

### **Working Group Members**

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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), Dan DeGroot (representative of Yakima Dairy Federation), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County)

### **Meetings/Calls Dates**

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

When: 10:00am – 11:30am Thursday, April 24, 2014

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

### **Participants**

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Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, Dan Degroot, Kathleen Rogers, \*Sanjay Barik, and Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County support staff)

\* Participated by telephone

### **Key Discussion Points**

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#### **Welcome and Meeting Overview**

The Chair of the working group welcomed the members and provided a brief overview of the agenda.

#### Agenda:

##### **1. Needs for Education and Public Outreach**

The group picked up where they left off at the last working group meeting, which involved discussing the *“Steps in Developing a Marketing Plan”* document provided by the EPO Working Group. The group focused on selecting a target audience, which led to the fact that due to the purview of the working group, multiple target audiences should be identified to target various sources such as septic systems, abandoned wells, residential fertilizer use, etc.

Avenues for public information were discussed and one participant suggested creating or revitalizing an existing telephone hotline similar to the 211 Washington Information Network information referral line that local residents could call for more information on further outreach materials or education. Such a hotline would be included on education and public outreach materials associated with RCIM sources, or could be expanded to the purview of other working group sources such as Livestock/CAFO or Irrigated Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Bob F. to discuss such a referral line with EPO that could be developed for RCIM sources, or perhaps all sources relating to the LYV GWMA.

Regarding target audiences, the group felt that focusing on non-permitted audiences would be better suited for public outreach, due to the fact that they are not being monitored or overseen by any local, state, or federal authority, besides some installation permits relating to septic systems and domestic wells. It was expressed that sub-audiences should be identified and approached separately as to not overwhelm a distinct audience with a large amount of education material to ensure the various sub-audiences get the information that is most appropriate for them. A Department of Ecology staff stated that DOE permits that lapse are being reauthorized, reissued and monitored as necessary, further reducing the need to target permitted facilities, as these types of permits are operating permits, and not a onetime installation permit. The group reached general consensus that the residential purview of RCIM would be the most beneficial audience for education and public outreach targeting.

One participant inquired about identifying Department of Ecology compliance actions associated with known or specific nitrate plumes or spill locations. The department of Ecology staff participating in the discussion could not comment on providing such information.

Abandoned wells outreach was discussed during the meeting. The group agreed that if the GWAC was going to pursue locating abandoned or improperly decommissioned wells, it would be ideal to ensure that whoever is bringing forth any information associated with locations or history of an abandoned well on their property, that they should be under no financial liability in properly decommissioning the well. The group believes that there should be no cost to the informant as to encourage people to relinquish information, and not scare them into withholding any information they might have. It was suggested that the GWAC explore this idea, as well as possibly setting funds aside for such purposes, or seeking additional funding for an abandoned well locating and decommissioning project. In addition, such a program may need proper legislative action for implementation.

**ACTION:** Bob F. to bring forth abandoned wells topic to the GWAC during the June meeting.

**ACTION:** Bob F. to inquire the Regulatory Framework Working Group about protocol for beginning such a program, if GWAC feels it would be necessary.

**ACTION:** Sanjay B. to research abandoned wells within the LYV GWMA boundary and report findings during the May RCIM meeting.

### **Resources Requested**

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None at this time

### **Recommendations for GWAC**

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- Discuss the possibility of providing funds for an abandoned or improperly decommissioned well locating project and properly decommissioning them.

### **Deliverables/Products Status**

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- Internally developing education and outreach strategy, and moving towards a meeting with the EPO Working Group to hone and deliver such a campaign.

### **Proposed Next Steps**

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- Raise the groups concern for an abandoned or improperly decommissioned well outreach program to the GWAC