

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

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Review and adjust proposal budgets.

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), Dan DeGroot (Yakima Dairy Federation)

Meetings/Calls Dates

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

When: 10:00am – 12:00pm Thursday, August 28, 2014

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

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, Dan DeGroot, Jim Davenport, Kathleen Rogers, Lisa Freund (by telephone), and Kelly Rae (Yakima County staff support)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome and Meeting Overview

The Chair of the working group welcomed the members and provided a brief overview of the agenda: review RCIM's budget proposal to the GWAC and make modifications as requested by the GWAC.

Agenda

1. Abandoned Wells and Septic Systems

The group reviewed well data repositories (EPA, Ecology). Discussed request that was originally made to Ecology in February 2014 about known nitrogen plumes in the boundaries of GWMA. It was pointed out that the work group has not received any information regarding the locations of known plumes.

Gordon Kelly reminded the group that the Yakima Health District has records on permitted septic systems dating back to 1975. Gordon has access to data showing if any permitted systems failed and can ask Ecology for wells that they have taken action on already and what they did to mitigate them. This would show due diligence.

The group discussed the boundaries of the GWMA noting that the Nation and the west side of the Yakima River weren't participating in the program. There is proportionate contribution from those areas and the potential that it bled across into GWMA's boundaries. The group could probably get that information from the EPA. Most other commercial / municipalities are regulated, for instance Harrah is tasked with reducing ammonia per the EPA.

Action Item: Gordon volunteered to make contact with Tom Eaton at EPA and Charlie McKinney at Ecology to collect information.

2. RCIM Budget Proposals – Abandoned or Improperly Installed Wells

Bob noted that the RCIM proposal called for \$50k in the first year to identify abandoned wells. The second year is proposed at \$100k for decommissioning identified wells. A member suggested that the first phase could involve the EPO and perhaps find a grant program to assist in paying for the surveying.

Bob proposed using the first year of \$50k to locate and identify the wells, coordinating with the EPO to conduct the field work and with the Data Working Group to create a statistical database.

The group discussed the possibility of contacting well drillers in the effort to find abandoned wells and encourage the drillers to discuss the importance of properly decommissioning abandoned wells with customers. Public works directors were also identified as possible sources of information since they would know where water lines have been extended. Abandoned wells may be located in these areas. The group discussed what to do with poorly constructed or abandoned wells.

Agreement: After extensive discussion, the group agreed to transfer the \$50k to EPO the first year. The EPO will take direction from the RCIM Working Group. RCIM and EPO to identify exactly what the outcomes will be. EPO and RCIM will work jointly while the RCIM oversees the project.

It was agreed that the EPO would be the point of contact for the public. RCIM will meet with the EPO for specifics. Lisa asked clarification of "first year" and Jim stated that first year is now through June 2015 and the \$50k needs to be spent in this timeframe.

Agreement: The group further agreed that for the second year the proposed \$100k will be cut to \$50k for decommissioning abandoned wells. Jim pointed out that it's all in implementation

and suggested RCIM should zero it or take two thirds or one half and push it out as it is hard to spend all of that money in the timeframe allotted.

3. Deep Soil Sampling Proposal

Bob stated that Laurie Crowe had contacted him regarding the deep soil sampling and wanted to know if it could be done on residential property as she's had a lot of inquiries. Fertilizing hobby farms, golf courses, schools and parks concentrated the nitrates and it gets pushed down by watering/irrigating. It was decided that it would be beneficial to include these types of properties in the Deep Soil Sampling.

Action Item: Bob will talk to Jim Trull about conducting Deep Soil Sampling on non-AG parcels.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

- Remove RCIM Hotline from current budget with the understanding that it is still on the list
- RCIM to allocate first year \$50k to EPO to identify abandoned wells and the second year the proposed \$100k will be cut to \$50k for decommissioning abandoned wells.
- Encourage GWAC to include residential properties (ie hobby farms, golf courses, parks, etc) in the Deep Soil Sampling Program
- Recommend to GWAC to revisit working groups guidelines regarding attendance

Deliverables/Products Status

- Budget will be revised prior to next GWAC meeting

Proposed Next Steps

- Review Ecology's website as it has a well log with the exception of any wells installed in the pre-70s.
- Coordinate a meeting between RCIM and EPO to identify project proposed outcomes and next steps.
- Continue sending out meeting notices to all members. Send draft minutes to meeting participants.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 25, 2014, 10:00am – 12:00pm at KDNA Granger Conference Room – 121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger WA – (509) 574-2353 - PIN# 2353