

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

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Review and Adjust Budget Proposals

Working Group Members

Robert Farrell, Chair (Port of Sunnyside), 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 (Yakima Nation), Kathleen Rogers (Citizen Rep), Sanjay Barik (Ecology,) Dan DeGroot (Yakima Dairy Federation)

Meetings/Calls Dates

When: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Where: Radio KDNA Granger conference room - 121 Sunnyside Ave., Granger, WA

Call: (509) 574-2353 – PIN 2353#

Participants

Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, Dan DeGroot, *Lisa Freund, *Mary Wurtz and *Lee Murdock (Yakima County staff)
*via phone

Key Discussion Points

Prior to the meeting: Bob answered questions from the group regarding Ecology data that had been distributed in April regarding permitted facilities. The group agreed that they should refine their request to Ecology to include loading information. A member proposed making a separate request to Tom Eaton for information on federal facilities that might be permitted under EPA: facilities on the reservation, BLM lands, the Yakima Training Center, Kittitas County. The purpose would be to obtain accurate information on total loading originating both outside and inside the GWMA.

Chairman Bob Farrell then welcomed the group and announced the agenda: To consider modifications to the “Deep Soil Sampling Plan” for RCIM sites.

Background: Bob reminded the group that Laurie Crowe had approached him after the August GWAC meeting regarding residential homeowners who had expressed interest in participating in the Deep Soil Sampling (DSS). As there was no provision in the DSS to include non-agricultural sites, she suggested RCIM consider including them. The RCIM discussed it at their August meeting.

He noted they had also discussed schools, playgrounds, parks and golf courses as other possible RCIM (Municipal) sampling sites.

Bob stated that the group needs to consider 1) what modifications are appropriate to the DSS for RCIM sampling and 2) develop addenda. The proposal can then go to Laurie to identify if there's money in the current year budget for these alternate sites, or if it should be considered in the next budget year.

The group discussed the number of sampling sites that would be appropriate for each residential location—five sampling sites, as proposed for agricultural sites, or something different.

A discussion followed regarding how to sample drain fields. The group noted sampling would not take place directly in a drain field; rather, samples could be taken in the proximity. A member explained pre-work that would need to be done and noted that the Health District can help by identifying where permitted drain fields are. He observed that older drain fields would not have been permitted; however, homeowners may know where the drainfield is if they've had their septic system pumped.

Residential samples: A member inquired if they should collect a composite sample plus a sample from the drainfield. Another member agreed, noting that the working group is charged with identifying contributions of nitrate to groundwater. Accordingly, septic systems should be considered as a possible source.

The group discussed IAWG's DSS budget proposal to the GWAC: the \$395,000 currently under contract (200 samples), and \$150,000 for an additional 100 samples. The group considered how many samples for RCIM would be enough: could they ask for funding for up to 30, with a minimum of 10 samples? A member observed that it is statistically difficult to draw conclusions from that number. He suggested going back to the High Risk (HR) Well Assessment participants (EPO program) to solicit more residential DSS participation. He asked Lisa if the health district had already collected wellhead and septic data from the HR survey. She responded yes.

A discussion followed regarding the acceptable margin of error (usually 5%) for sampling. Lee calculated that if there are 16,000 permitted septic systems in the GWMA, RCIM would need to sample 375 for a 95% confidence level. She added that if the group is sampling to assist in the identification of hotspots or for areas for additional testing, then there is no need to worry about the sampling size. The sampling size only matters if the testing is to draw a conclusion.

The group discussed how to characterize hobby farms. The group agreed that they are non-commercial operations (not a primary source of income), and generally of smaller acreage. They would fall under the residential category, which is generally defined to include a residence, have smaller acreage that grows/produces for noncommercial purposes.

The group discussed its commercial, industrial and municipal (CIM) categories, noting that those facilities and jurisdictions are already regulated and hence would be an unlikely source of unknown contamination. They further discussed sampling of golf courses, schools, playgrounds. (categorized under municipal); however, no agreement or decision was reached regarding sampling these potential sources.

Summary of Agreements and Next Steps

Residential Property Sampling Bob summarized the group's discussion, noting they were talking about conducting two different types of sampling on residential properties: 1) septic/drain fields and 2) everything else. Within the residential "everything else" category they would look for a composite of garden, lawn, pasture. The group agreed. They further agreed that with a composite sampling they were not seeking to draw conclusions but only to determine the need for further sampling.

GWAC Proposal The group agreed to a GWAC proposal to redirect future resources to conduct RCIM sampling. Current resources should be reallocated for this purpose if the current DSS falls short of its sampling goals.

DSS Plan Modification The group will also produce addenda to the DSS Plan that will address sampling sites and methods (e.g., sampling in the proximity of drain fields and composite sampling from other residential uses).

Resources Requested

- None

Recommendations for GWAC

- Redirect future resources (funding) for RCIM sampling.
- If the current DSS program falls short of volunteer participants, reallocate a portion of DSS funds for residential sampling.

Deliverables/Products Status

-

Proposed Next Steps

- Submit the proposal at a future GWAC meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2014, 10:00 AM Radio KDNA