

LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, December 12, 2012

Denny Blaine Board Room
810 E. Custer, Sunnyside, WA 98944

I. Call to Order

- A. Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by Penny Mabie, Facilitator.

Members present: Rand Elliott, Yakima County Commissioner; Charlie McKinney, Dept. of Ecology, Tom Tebb (alternate); Kirk Cook, Dept. of AG; Andy Cervantes, Department of Health; Jan Whitefoot, Concerned Citizens for Yakama Reservation, Jim Dyjak (alternate); Robert Farrell, Port of Sunnyside, John Van Wingerden (alternate); Helen Reddout, Community Association for Restoration of the Environment; Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek; Stuart Turner; Turner & Co.; Steve George, Yakima County Farm Bureau; Jason Sheehan, Yakima Dairy Federation; Dan DeGroot, (alternate); Jim Newhouse South Yakima Conservation District (alternate); Tom Ring, Yakama Nation (alternate); Lonna Frans, USGS; Gordon Kelly, Yakima County Health District; Dr. Troy Peters, WSU IAREC (alternate); Ron Cowin SVID (alternate)

Members absent: Jim Beaver, Benton County Commissioner; Bruce Perkins, Elizabeth Sanchey, Jim Trull, and Mark Nielson; alternates Eric Anderson, Ginny Stern, Jaclyn Ford, Matt Bachmann, Justin Waddington, Wendell Hannigan, Heather Wendt, and Vern Redifer.

Members' seats not represented: Benton County Commission, Benton County Conservation District, EPA

Sub-Committee Participation :

- **Data:** Andy Cervantes, Lonna Frans, Steve Swope, Kirk Cook, and Ali Sedighi, Yakima County
- **Irrigated AG:** Tom Tebb, Stuart Turner, Ron Cowin, Rachel Little, Michael Shuttleworth, Chelsea Durfey, Dr. Troy Peters, Jean Mendoza, and Terry Keenhan, Yakima County
- **CAFO/Livestock :** Charlie McKinney, Helen Reddout, Steve George, Jim Newhouse, Jason Sheehan, Patricia Newhouse, and Lisa Freund, Yakima County
- **Residential Commercial Industrial Municipal and Domestic (RCIMD):** Tom Ring, Jan Whitefoot, Jim Dyjak, Gordon Kelly, John Van Wingerden, Robert Farrell, Dan DeGroot, and Don Gatchalian, Yakima County

II. Committee Business :

The October 18, 2012 and the November 15, 2012 meeting summaries were approved.

Facilitator Penny Mabie discussed the importance of the sub-committees finalizing their work plans at the meeting because both the work plan and the outreach plan are due to Ecology by the end of the year.

The committee had a discussion regarding the GWAC budget and distribution of funds. A member expressed concern about the budget not being included in the work plan discussion and sought a commitment that the committee would be able to weigh in on budgetary decisions regarding the Groundwater Management Area Program. Ecology, Yakima County and other representatives commented that the GWAC would have full discussions about how to allocate budget across different aspects of the GWMA program. Further discussion was put on hold due to time constraints and the County's deadline to submit the outreach plan to Ecology.

Penny explained that tonight's work plan handouts contained both the proposed content and timeline for each working group's work plan. Ali Sedighi, Yakima County staff combined the data into individual spreadsheets for each group's consideration. The sub-committees were asked to use these spreadsheets as a guide during tonight's subcommittee discussions.

Penny noted that the Education & Outreach sub-committee completed its Outreach Program prior to the GWAC meeting and therefore would not meet; nor would the Funding or Regulatory Framework subcommittees. The four remaining sub-committees (Data, CAFO/Livestock, Irrigated AG and RCIMD) would meet separately for 75 minutes to reach agreement on work plan content and timelines.

The full committee was then adjourned to allow the subcommittees to complete their assignments.

III. Work Plan

Subcommittee Reports :

At 6:15 PM the full committee reconvened for individual work plan presentations. The spokesperson for each sub-committee summarized their discussion focusing on "key additions" "key changes" and "notable milestones."

The committee discussed the work plans, and indicated they would be willing to consider the plan for approval at the January meeting, provided they had opportunity to provide input to the County, and adequate time to review the final version prior to January 17.

Education & Outreach Draft Plan :

The GWAC committee discussed the EPO's draft plan, one of the December 31 deliverables. Committee members were asked to submit any additional agencies or groups they felt should be involved in the outreach to Lisa Freund, Yakima County staff, for inclusion in the plan as soon as possible.

The GWAC committee approved the Education and Outreach Plan by consensus.

IV. Next Meeting:

- Thursday, January 17, 2013

V. Next Steps:

Changes to the sub-committees work plans need to be submitted to Penny or the County as soon as possible.

The sub-committees need to meet at least two week before the GWAC committee meetings each month.

A discussion needs to take place regarding committee member biographies and if they should be made public via the web site.

Replacement for Hispanic representation will be discussed.

The County will incorporate the suggested work plan changes and return the updated plans to the committee for its review at least one week (preferably two weeks) prior to the next GWAC meeting.

VI. 2013 Meeting Calendar:

The committee discussed the meeting schedule, duration and location for 2013. The decision was made to continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month for two hours (5:00 pm-7:00 pm) at the Denny Board Room, 810 E. Custer, Sunnyside, WA 98944.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Meeting summary approved by the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee on January 17, 2013.