

LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 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 5:00 pm by Penny Mabie, Facilitator.

Members present: Rand Elliott, Yakima County Commissioner; Charlie McKinney, Dept. of Ecology; Andy Cervantes, Department of Health; Tom Eaton, EPA; Jan Whitefoot, Concerned Citizens for Yakama Reservation; Jaclyn Ford (alternate), AGR; John Van Wingerden (alternate), Port of Sunnyside; Helen Reddout, Community Association for Restoration of the Environment; Dr. Kefy Desta, WSU IAREC; Jim Trull, SVID; Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek; Mark Nielson, Benton Conservation District; Stuart Turner, Turner & Co.; Steve George, Yakima Farm Bureau; Dan DeGroot (alternate), Yakima Dairy Federation; Laurie Crowe, South Yakima Conservation District; Elizabeth Sanchev, Yakama Nation; Bruce Perkins, Benton Franklin Health District; Lonna Frans, USGS; Tom Tebb, Ecology (alternate) and Gordon Kelly, Yakima Health District;

Members absent: Jim Beaver, Benton County Commissioner; Robert Morales, Mabton School District; Jason Sheehan, Yakima Dairy Federation; Robert Farrell, Port of Sunnyside; Kirk Cook, WA Dept. of Agriculture and alternates: Eric Anderson; Tom Ring; Jim Newhouse; Ginny Stern; Dr. Troy Peters; Matt Bachmann.

Member seats not represented: Benton County; Lower Valley Community Representative

B. Appointment of Chairman: Commissioner Rand Elliott appointed as chairman by consensus.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes: June 5, 2012 minutes were approved with corrections. Penny will correct minutes and have them posted on the website. Meeting minutes with corrections approved by consensus.

II. Unfinished Business :

Draft Committee Operating Guidelines:

Quorum: Committee agreed to a requirement of 16 of 22 seats to make a quorum.

Roles and Responsibilities - Meeting attendance:

Committee agreed that additional language needed to be added: If an organization seat (member or alternate) is not represented for three consecutive meetings the advisory committee will consider asking the Department of Ecology to appoint a replacement. The

advisory committee may offer suggestions. The replacement would represent the same interest or constituency as the original member.

Decision making:

Committee agreed to seek consensus. In the instance where the committee is unable to come to a consensus the committee has agreed **decisions will be made by ¾ of the committee** with minority report.

External communications:

- “Translations/interpreters will/may/upon request be provided by Yakima County to ensure access to GWAC meetings and documentation.” Committee came to a consensus that the language will read, “Translations and interpreters will be provided upon request.”

Ground rules:

Committee came to consensus that no additions or deletions needed to be made.

Schedule:

August meeting will remain on the second Thursday of the month. Starting the month of September meetings will be moved to the third Thursday of the month.

III. Open Items:

Video or audio record of meetings:

Members discussed the recording of meetings. Issues of concern included transparency of meetings, quality of recordings, and inhibition of dialog. The decision was discussed and consensus was not reached. A vote was taken. 19 members were in attendance. Members in favor of audio record of meetings: 3; Opposed: 10 Consensus was not reached and the decision was that recordings will not be made.

Start each meeting with prayer:

Members came to consensus that each meeting will start with a moment of silence.

Length of meetings:

Concerns were raised that the length of meeting time would not be adequate for full dialog and discussion. Some suggestions for sub-committees, smaller working groups and informal interim meetings were suggested. This item was tabled until the GWAC work plan is more fleshed out and the needs of the committee can better inform the time needed for meetings.

IV. New Business :

Scope of work:

Committee agreed to all components of the Advisory Committee Process Guidelines in the draft Committee Operating Guidelines.

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) Development Process chart: Committee agreed the language “identifying data needs” needs to be added under the Groundwater Advisory Committee.

Information needs:

Brainstorm exercise - Each member was given a yellow post-it and asked to provide three information needs this committee has. Penny will create a list from responses.

V. Public Comment:

Wendell Hangerton - Consider all baseline information. He expressed support for the idea of a technical advisory committee that can bring information to the public. The public needs to have a better understanding of groundwater. Groundwater is different on the Yakama Reservation.

VI. Next Steps:

- The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at Denny Blaine Board Room.
- Agenda items:
 - Finalize Committee Operating Guidelines.
 - Work planning process.
 - Discuss data and information needs

VII. Side notes:

- No sub-groups or subcommittees will be formed at this time.
- Yakima County will help the committee draft the two-year work plan, schedule and budget per Task 2 of the Yakima County-Ecology Grant Agreement.
- Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Program started in February of 1998 and was complete in August of 2001 at the cost of \$1.6 million.
- Member question: Will the committee have access to waste management data?
- A newsletter reporting the work of the committee was suggested.
- Microphones need to be provided for next meeting.
- The GWMA website is up and running. <http://www.yakimacounty.us/gwma>
- Malheur County, Oregon was successful with its nitrate program. Might be a good model to look at.

VIII. 2012 Meeting Calendar:

- August 9
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

Meeting calendar will be reassessed at the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Meeting summary approved by the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee on August 9, 2012.