

47 Rand Elliott – Develop reasonable and practical solutions to reduce nitrate
48 levels to acceptable levels.
49 Charlie McKinney– That this committee sees this as an opportunity and uses it
50 as such.
51 Jan Whitefoot – Identify sources of pollutants. Work with EPA to enforce the
52 Clean Water Act. Help citizens and municipalities identify pollution in wells.
53 Inform public and prosecute polluters.
54 Kirk Cook – Establish major cause(s) of problems and develop technically-
55 based approach to address the problem areas.
56 Robert Farrell – Help ensure safe, uncontaminated groundwater is available as
57 a potable source for everyone who wants it.
58 Helen Reddout – Restore the lower valley back to a healthy environment it was
59 before ground, air and water pollution. Prosecute those who continue to
60 pollute. Look into limiting the use of groundwater in order to conserve and
61 ensure it is available for all.
62 Dr. Kefy Desta – Develop a process for reviewing data and other information so
63 recommendations and decisions are made on sound information.
64 Jim Trull – Develop strategy. Come up with scientific, technical information to
65 alleviate the problem (research based) and implement the technical measures
66 that come out of this work.
67 Jean Mendoza – Ask our creator to join us and watch over us as we seek our
68 common goals. Ensure future generations of children can ride their horses
69 along and safely drink from the groundwater and surface water.
70 Matt Bachmann – Need to identify scientific questions the US Geologic Survey
71 (USGS) might address.
72 Mark Nielson – Develop a scientifically based plan that relies on voluntary and
73 incentive based actions.
74 Stuart Turner – Assist in the launch of the Groundwater Management Area
75 Committee (GWAC). Develop greater citizen awareness of ground water and
76 the factors that can improve or degrade groundwater. Assist the GWAC
77 members with greater understanding of historic and current agricultural
78 production practices and their potential influence on groundwater over time.
79 Steve George – Prioritize so that the nitrate issue is the first focus of this effort.
80 Identify the status of the current problem and identify solutions. Keep solutions
81 simple and incentive based.
82 Jason Sheehan – Use sound science and facts to identify issues related to
83 ground water. Develop an action plan to improve ground water quality over
84 time.
85 Laurie Crowe – Implement solutions in a reasonable timeframe.
86 Elizabeth Sanchez – Improve groundwater quality. Assure human health is
87 protected and find a doable solution that everyone can incorporate and be
88 happy with.
89 Bruce Perkins – Provide realistic public health perspective and represent Benton
90 County.
91 Gordon Kelly – Arrive at a consensus for a viable, achievable and feasible plan
92 to improve groundwater quality within the GWMA.

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Draft Operating Guidelines

Members should read through the Draft Committee Operating Guidelines and provide feedback prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Foundational information:

Purpose of this committee is to work collaboratively to implement strategies to reduce nitrate contamination concentrations in groundwater. The GWMA area encompasses the Lower Yakima Valley from Union Gap to Benton City, minus the Yakama Reservation.

Participation: Facilitator will make sure that all members are heard. Members will not sign off on information on behalf of their constituency. Any and all information can go with members so they can discuss with their constituency. There needs to be consistent participation by members. Suggestion made: If a member misses two meetings they shall receive a warning. If a member misses three meetings they shall be dismissed from the committee.

Quorum: Committee needs to decide on whether or not a quorum is needed to make decisions. Proposals: 1. 80% of members must be in agreement to adopt a decision. 2. 2/3 of members must be in agreement to adopt a decision. 3. Everyone needs to vote if it is a major issue. Decision regarding what constitutes a quorum will be made at the next scheduled meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Members need to come prepared to each meeting. Read all materials prior to the meeting.

Decision making:

Members need to decide how decisions should be made, whether they are decided by consensus, majority vote or consensus with minority report. In open discussion several members leaned toward consensus with minority report.

Recording of meetings:

A suggestion was made to have meetings recorded, either voice recording or video recording, to promote transparency. Not all members were in favor of recording meetings. The committee needs to make a determination on whether to record meetings or not.

IV. Background and Outcomes:

Commissioner Rand Elliott thanked all committee members for their willingness to participate and provided a brief history of the events leading up to the formation of the Groundwater Management Area and the Groundwater Advisory Committee.

139 Charlie McKinney, Department of Ecology, explained that Ecology is in a two-year
140 contract with Yakima County. Yakima County is in a supportive role. The County
141 will provide administrative and technical support. Committee members are the
142 decision makers.

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144 **V. Public Comment:**

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146 Yakima County Public Services Director, Vern Redifer – noted that he wrote the
147 scope for the project. An additional \$450,000 in funding is in the pipeline, thanks to
148 Senator Jim Honeyford giving us \$750,000 for the budget. He added that all
149 members on this committee are appointed and have equal voting rights. There
150 are no ex-officios on this committee.

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152 **VI. Decisions:**

- 153 1. Commissioner Rand Elliott will serve as interim chairperson until the
154 committee appoints a chairman.
- 155 2. A contact list with all members' contact information may be shared
156 amongst members.
- 157 3. All members of the committee agree to being contacted via email.
- 158 4. Future meetings: Frequency: Committee agreed to monthly meetings and
159 reassessing in 6 months. Location: Committee agreed to continue having
160 meetings at the Denny Blaine Board Room. Day of the week: Committee
161 agreed to hold monthly meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month. Time of
162 day: Committee agreed that the next 3 meetings will have a start time of
163 5:00 p.m. and will reassess the start time after the third meeting. Length of
164 meetings: Committee agreed to hold meetings for two-hours. Facilitator
165 will reassess meeting length after the first three months.

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167 **VII. Next Steps:**

- 168 • The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the
169 Denny Blaine Board Room.
- 170 • Penny will be contacting each member before the next meeting to
171 conduct interviews.
- 172 • Based on today's discussion, Penny will make revisions to the Draft
173 Operating Guidelines and send them out to the committee within one
174 week. Please respond within the target date she provides.
- 175 • Mark Nielson will provide the committee with budget and background
176 information on the Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Area.
- 177 • GWMA website is currently in production.
- 178 • File sharing system is in the works.
- 179 • Watch for and read GWAC communications prior to next meeting.
- 180 • The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

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182 **VIII. 2012 Meeting Calendar:**

- 183 • July 12
- 184 • August 9

- 185 • September 13
- 186 • October 11
- 187 • November 8
- 188 • December 13

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191 Meeting summary approved by the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management
192 Area Advisory Committee on _____;

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194 Signed: _____.