

# LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GWAC)

## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Radio KDNA  
121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932

### I. Call to Order

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by Penny Mabie, Facilitator.

Member	Seat	Present	Absent
Stuart Turner	Agronomist, Turner and Co.	P	
Chelsey Durfey	Agronomist, Turner and Co. (alternate)		P
Mark Nielson	Benton Conservation District	P	
Heather Wendt	Benton Conservation District (alternate)	P	
VACANT	Benton County Board of Commissioners		
Rick Dawson	Benton Franklin Health District	P	
Helen Reddout	Community Association for Restoration of the Environment	P	
Wendell Hannigan	Community Association for Restoration of the Environment (alternate)		P
Jan Whitefoot	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation		P
Jim Dyjak	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation (alternate)	P	
Jean Mendoza	Friends of Toppenish Creek		P
Eric Anderson	Friends of Toppenish Creek (alternate)		P
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative		P
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)	P	
VACANT	Lower Yakima Community Representative		
Robert Farrell	Port of Sunnyside	P	
John Van Wingerden	Port of Sunnyside (alternate)	P	
Jim Trull	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control		P
Ron Cowin	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control (alternate)	P	
Laurie Crowe	South Yakima Conservation District	P	
Jim Newhouse	South Yakima Conservation District (alternate)		P
Tom Eaton	U.S. EPA		P
Marie Jennings	U.S. EPA (alternate)	P	
Lonna Frans	USGS Washington Water Science Center		P

Matt Bachmann	USGS Washington Water Science Center (alternate)	P	
Kirk Cook	WA Department of Agriculture	P	
Jaclyn Ford	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		P
Charlie McKinney	WA Department of Ecology	P	
Tom Tebb	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)		P
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	P	
Ginny Stern	WA Department of Health (alternate)		P
Dr. Kefy Desta	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center	P	
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (alternate)		P
Elizabeth Sanchez	Yakama Nation		P
Tom Ring	Yakama Nation (alternate)	P	
Rand Elliott	Yakima County Board of Commissioners	P	
Vern Redifer	Yakima County Board of Commissioners (alternate)	P	
Steve George	Yakima County Farm Bureau	P	
Justin Waddington	Yakima County Farm Bureau (alternate)		P
Gordon Kelly	Yakima County Health District	P	
Jason Sheehan	Yakima Dairy Federation		P
Dan DeGroot	Yakima Dairy Federation (alternate)	P	

**Members' seats not represented:** Benton County Commission and Lower Valley Community Representative

## II. Committee Business:

Reminders:

- Please speak up so everyone can hear.
- Please place all cell phones on silent. If you must take a call, please step outside of the room so as to not disrupt the meeting.
- Before leaving please check the room to make sure you have all your belongings.
- Please keep all side conversations outside of the room so members and observers can hear conversations.

Introductions.

Moment of silence.

February 6, 2013 meeting summary approved by the committee.

March 21, 2013 meeting summary approved by the committee.

- Committee came to consensus that individual's names will no longer be cited in the meeting summaries; rather, summaries will reference committee members.

There is a membership seat available for Lower Valley Community Representative. Ecology is working on getting this seat filled.

A member shared that a 42 page document regarding studies on Lagoon Assessment will be forwarded to committee members. The study is incomplete as it took place after the construction of a basin. Ecology has studies available on their website. Negotiations to obtain two additional private studies are in the works.

### **III. GWMA Budget Update:**

Vern Redifer briefed the committee on the budget. The short term budget was approved and is represented in the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. Time is running out to get the budget encumbered before June 30th. The County needs to have a final scope of work from the work groups to move forward with the releasing of funds. Interlocal agreements contracting individuals to complete the work need to be done by June.

After spending the initial short term budget there is still \$450,000 to work with. The Washington State House budget did not include any additional money; however, the Senate requested an additional \$1.6 million to the capital budget. The County is in the process of extending the committee's facilitator's contract through the end of this year.

Deadline: Must have work groups scopes within the next two weeks.

A separate budget request has been made to the legislature for money for residential water treatment.

### **IV. Working Group Protocols:**

The committee discussed how to populate and schedule work group meetings. A draft document was sent out to committee members for their review on how the work groups should operate. Each work group should have a purpose (why they are needed and what is expected).

A couple members of the committee commented that the work groups should not be requiring educational background from the members. It was noted that no one is requesting education background; however, technical expertise and experience is needed.

The purpose of the work group is to identify the problems and come up with remedies and/or solutions and present them to the GWAC for final decision. The committee discussed who needs to be part of the small work groups. It was discussed that each work group needs to have at least one GWAC member. Additionally, there should be technical experts, affected people and affected stakeholders. Several members stated that stakeholders are needed as part of the work group as they will implement the outcomes.

The Irrigated Agriculture work group has proposed in their scope of work that there be a core group made up of stakeholders to make decisions. The core group would be the gate keepers of what will be presented to the GWAC. The possibility of a core group was discussed amongst the committee with no clear agreement. Some members were

opposed to having a core group, as they believe there needs to be a wider variety of decision makers. Other members believe that a core group is necessary to keep the work group effective and focused on issues. The work group would still be open for anyone to comment.

Outcome of the discussion:

- Purpose: To identify problems and come up with remedies and solutions. Present them to the GWAC for decision.
- Regular attendance is needed.
- The meetings are open to anyone.
- All remedies and/or solutions will be documented with an explanation for why they will work or won't work.

Discussion of a "core group" within the work group has been tabled for a later meeting.

There are still three work groups that have not selected a leader/chair:

- Residential, Commercial, Industrial
- Regulatory Framework
- Funding

#### **V. GWMA Outreach Materials : (Orange documents)**

The committee was provided with three surveys for their review and approval:

- Risk Assessment for Water Supply Wells - Lower Yakima Valley
- Informational Public Questionnaire
- Questionnaire for Health Care Providers, along with an accompanying letter to providers

There will be a change to the Risk Assessment survey question 11B. It will be edited to state "maintained".

EPO discussed with Yakima County Health District and Benton County Health District the cost of providing the Risk Assessment survey. Yakima County Health District has eight staff members that would be available to complete surveys and Benton County Health District has four. If the GWAC attempted to reach all the property owners from the County's pilot program the cost would be approximately \$55,000. The EPO would like to start out with the 271 properties that responded to the County's pilot program. The approximate cost would be \$32,000.

The informational public questionnaire will be handed out by public health officials or agencies. The EPO has discussed making them available at Cinco de Mayo celebrations, church groups, with health care providers, etc.

The questionnaire for Health Care Providers will go out electronically to a list of 600 health care professionals on a list provided by Yakima County Health District. Benton County Health District has a provider list as well.

EPO has a data model that shows where the hotspots for nitrate contamination are located and will work with the people in those areas.

The committee approved all three surveys by consensus.

## **VI. Working Group reports:**

### **Livestock/CAFO: (Green documents)**

The work group took the lead on discussing a process for identifying existing and alternate Best Management Practices (BMP) and regulatory requirements. The Livestock/CAFO group will reach out to other work groups and discuss the possibility of joint meetings. The group has invited Dr. Robert Stevens, a retired soil scientist from Washington State University's Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, to speak at their next meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Other work groups will be invited to attend.

The work group has a standing meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. The meetings will be coordinated to allow for phone conferencing.

The work group has provided the GWAC with a draft scope of work for their review and comment. GWAC members should comment no later than Wednesday, 24, 2013.

### **Data Collection: (Purple documents)**

The work group briefly discussed Benton County's request to Ecology to withdraw from the Lower Yakima Groundwater Management Area. The group is still awaiting the database from the State Department of Health. Other sources of data were discussed.

The work group will meet every month two weeks before the GWAC meetings. The data collection group provided the GWAC with their scope of work for the committee to review and approve. The GWAC members should comment no later than Wednesday, 24, 2013.

There is \$60,000 that the Data Collection group believes it will use before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Irrigated Agriculture: (Blue documents)**

The work group discussed ground rules and protocol for their meeting and came to a consensus on a rigid structure. Their proposal is for a core group from the work group to represent the stakeholders and implement activities. The work group is proposing to the GWAC that it start with quality assurance plans (QAP) for both Irrigation Water Management and Deep Soil Sampling.

The work group also discussed and commented on Livestock/CAFO's scope of work and provided those comments to Yakima County. The group will work on getting a scope and figure for the County to put together an interlocal agreement.

**VII. Side note:**

The County is in need of volunteers from the GWAC to be part of the interview process of potential firms the GWAC will be contracting with. Four GWAC members agreed to be part of the interviewing process: Helen Reddout, Marie Jennings, Kirk Cook and Steve George.

**VIII. Public Comment :**

Sam Mazhari, PhD, Chemistry instructor for Yakima Valley Community College - Advised the committee that his chemistry students are looking for a project to volunteer their time on this summer. They are interested in volunteering their time on the nitrate project. He provided his contact information and it will be distributed to the GWAC.

**IX. Next Steps:**

- Review scopes of work and comment by Wednesday, April 24th
- Updates to the Working Group addition to the Operating Guidelines will be made.
- Irrigated Agriculture work group will have budget for QAPs for the County.
- Next agenda the discussion will be on the one year overview of guidelines, request for a complaint process, evaluation of the GWAC and a work plan check-in.

**X. 2013 Meeting Calendar:**

- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 19

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Meeting summary approved by the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee on May 16, 2013.