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

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday, September 18, 2014**

*Radio KDNA  
121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932*

**I. Call to Order**

**Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Penny Mabie, Facilitator.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Seat</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Stuart Turner	Agronomist, Turner and Co.		✓
Chelsea Durfey	Agronomist, Turner and Co. (alternate)	✓	
Kathleen Rogers	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 1	✓	
Bud Rogers	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 1 (alternate)		✓
Patricia Newhouse	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 2	✓	
Sue Wedam	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 2 (alternate)	✓	
Doug Simpson	Irrigated Crop Producer		✓
Jean Mendoza	Friends of Toppenish Creek	✓	
Eric Anderson	Friends of Toppenish Creek (alternate)		✓
Jan Whitefoot	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation		✓
Jim Dyjak	Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation (alternate)	✓	
Steve George	Yakima County Farm Bureau		✓
Justin Waddington	Yakima County Farm Bureau (alternate)		✓
Jason Sheehan	Yakima Dairy Federation	✓	
Dan DeGroot	Yakima Dairy Federation (alternate)		✓
Jim Trull	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control	✓	
Ron Cowin	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control (alternate)		✓
Laurie Crowe	South Yakima Conservation District		✓
Jim Newhouse	South Yakima Conservation District (alternate)		✓

[Type text]

**Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):**

The purpose of the GWMA is to reduce nitrate contamination concentrations in groundwater below state drinking water standards

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Robert Farrell	Port of Sunnyside	✓	
John Van Wingerden	Port of Sunnyside (alternate)	✓	
Rand Elliott	Yakima County Board of Commissioners	✓	
Vern Redifer	Yakima County Board of Commissioners (alternate)	✓	
Gordon Kelly	Yakima County Health District	✓	
Dr. Kefy Desta	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center		✓
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (alternate)		✓
Tom Eaton	U.S. EPA		✓
Marie Jennings	U.S. EPA (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchey	Yakama Nation		✓
Tom Ring	Yakama Nation (alternate)		✓
Kirk Cook	WA Department of Agriculture		✓
Virginia "Ginny" Prest	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		✓
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	✓	
Ginny Stern	WA Department of Health (alternate)	✓	
Charlie McKinney	WA Department of Ecology	✓	
Tom Tebb	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)		✓
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative		✓
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		✓

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**II. Welcome & Meeting Overview**

Moment of silence.

Introductions.

**III. Committee Business: Penny Mabie**

**Discussion on the Draft Meeting Minutes**

A member believes there are inconsistencies and a lack of detail in the meeting summaries. A discussion followed regarding meeting summaries – the intent, consistency, and format. Penny clarified that meeting summaries should not include the names of those making comments; however, presenters will be identified by name. She reminded the group that the meeting minutes are *not* a transcript but a summary of agreement.

The written summary is the only official documentation of the group's meetings. Penny observed meetings were being recorded by members of the audience. She noted that in

38 accordance with the committee’s operating guidelines, the electronic recording of this  
39 meeting should not be construed or represented as an official record of the meeting by  
40 any member. Penny proposed that the following statement be added at the beginning of  
41 future meeting summaries: *“Note: This document is only a summary of issues and actions in  
42 this meeting. It is not intended to be a transcription of the meeting, but an overview of points  
43 raised and responses from Yakima County and Groundwater Advisory Committee members. It  
44 may not fully represent the ideas discussed or opinions given. Examination of this document  
45 cannot equal or replace attendance.”* She will provide the language to the committee and ask for  
46 concurrence via email.

47

### 48 **Membership List**

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50 Matt Bachmann with USGS will no longer be a member of the committee but will serve  
51 as a resource for the group. A member asked for Matt’s statement in writing. Charlie  
52 McKinney stated that he would contact him, that there is a letter going to USGS  
53 affirming that they were no longer participants, but he also reminded everyone that USGS  
54 might be called back.

55

56 Elizabeth Sanchez is still on the committee.

57

58 A question was raised regarding Vern Redifer's position on the committee. It was  
59 clarified that Vern provides the technical support for the County and serves as Rand’s  
60 alternate.

61

### 62 **Speakers at Meetings**

63

64 The group discussed who—member or alternate—should be allowed to speak at the  
65 meetings. It was decided that the member would sit at the table and speak. If the alternate  
66 had something to contribute, it was suggested that they inform the member prior to the  
67 meeting. The alternates should sit with the public unless the member is absent or yields  
68 their seat to the alternate.

69

### 70 **Member Handouts**

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72 A member asked that meeting summaries should reflect when documents are provided to  
73 the committee by a committee member. The committee discussed it. It was agreed that  
74 when a member asked to distribute a document, the committee would make a  
75 determination whether the action should be part of the public record via the summary.  
76 The committee agreed the document itself would not be attached to the summary, but that  
77 it would be noted as having been distributed.

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83 **IV. GWMA Budget: Penny Mabie**

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85 Penny observed that a quorum of members was not present. Per the operating guidelines,  
86 the group needs 16 members to constitute a quorum, but only 12 members were present.  
87 Therefore, no decisions can be made at this meeting.

88

89 Penny suggested to the group that the lack of attendance was not due to lack of interest  
90 but might be an artifact of the meeting not appearing on the regular schedule, but being  
91 requested at the August meeting. She suggested that it should be made more obvious  
92 when a special meeting is scheduled.

93

94 Penny suggested that the group could discuss the budget proposals tonight and she could  
95 send out the proposals after the meeting asking for feedback from members who are not  
96 present. The committee discussed and concluded that it was necessary for members to  
97 hear the context of the budget presentation and be part of discussions before decisions  
98 could be reached.

99

100 Penny reminded the group that they had discussed and approved the Deep Soil Sampling  
101 plan over the past year. An incorrect assumption was made that approval of the plan  
102 included approval of the budget for the plan. Therefore, the DSS budget needs to be  
103 approved. The group decided that this would be discussed at October's meeting. Vern  
104 thanked Jean Mendoza for noting the inconsistency.

105

106 Vern introduced Lee Murdock. She is a new senior data analyst with the county and will  
107 support the working group chairs and analyze the data that the group is gathering.

108

109 **V. Public Comment:**

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111 A member of the public stated that he felt the committee was not in compliance with the  
112 Open Public Meetings Act. The agenda is not published, there is no meeting roll call or  
113 motions as required under Roberts Rules of Order, nor are committee rules posted on the  
114 website. He opined that the group's budget would not pass State or Federal standards and  
115 that the committee should consult with its legal and finance departments to ensure  
116 compliance. He added that the signature line on the meeting's Public Sign In Sheet is  
117 illegal.

118

119 **VI. Committee Discussion:**

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121 Jean Mendoza distributed to the group a list of steps she compiled that she felt reflected  
122 the Washington Administrative Code regarding the GWMA and what the committee  
123 should be doing.

124

125 Penny suggested that Charlie McKinney, Ecology, provide a refresher on the committee  
126 rules at a future meeting. Charlie concurred.

127

128 A group member stated that the committee's charge was to look at the laws and adjust  
129 them to fit with GWMA's needs – not make new laws. Penny added that the Regulatory  
130 working group is charged with that work and to look at gaps then make  
131 recommendations. Vern agreed and added that the committee needs to figure out what  
132 works and what doesn't. He will speak with Tom Eaton, chair of the Regulatory working  
133 group, so that a plan can be made to focus on that. A member suggested that the last  
134 agreement made by the committee was to have agencies with regulatory jurisdiction  
135 provide a summary and analysis of their regulations to the committee to begin to identify  
136 what is working and where possible gaps may be.  
137

138 **VII. Next Steps:**

139 Next Meeting:

- 140 • Based on tonight's discussion, Charlie will develop a refresher course on the
  - 141 GWAC meeting rules for a future meeting.
  - 142 • Discuss the GWMA Proposed Budget and Groundwater Monitoring Plan
  - 143 • Discuss the Deep Soil Sampling Budget
  - 144 • Finalize the August meeting summary
- 145  
146

147 **VIII. 2014 Meeting Calendar:**

- 148 • January 16, 2014
  - 149 • February 20, 2014
  - 150 • April 17, 2014
  - 151 • June 19, 2014
  - 152 • August 21, 2014
  - 153 • September 18, 2014
  - 154 • October 16, 2014
  - 155 • December 18, 2014 (as needed)
- 156

157 The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

158  
159 Meeting summary was approved by the GWAC on October 16, 2014.  
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