

1 **YAKIMA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
 2 **(GWAC)**

3 **MEETING SUMMARY**

4 **Thursday, June 18, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

5 **KDNA Conference Rooms 1 & 2**
 6 **121 S. Sunnyside Ave., Granger, WA**

8 ***Note: This document is only a summary of issues and actions of this meeting. It is not intended to be***
 9 ***a transcription of the meeting, but an overview of points raised and responses from Yakima County***
 10 ***and Groundwater Advisory Committee members. It may not fully represent the ideas discussed or***
 11 ***opinions given. Examination of this document cannot equal or replace attendance.***

12 **I. Call to Order**

13 **Roll Call:** This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Jim Davenport, Facilitator.

Member	Seat	Present	Absent
Stuart Turner	Agronomist, Turner and Co.,	✓	
Chelsea Durfey			✓
Bud Rogers	Lower Valley Community Representative Position 1	✓	
Kathleen 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	✓	
Frank Lyall	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)		✓
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)	✓	
Ryan Ibach	Yakima Health District	✓	
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center	✓	
Bill Dunbar	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	✓	
Marie Jennings	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchez	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)		✓
Jessica Black	Heritage University		✓

14 **II. Welcome & Meeting Overview**

15
16 Quorum was met as 16 members were present.
17
18 Introductions were done.
19
20 The agenda was reviewed. The question was raised regarding how items are set on Agenda.
21 Jim stated that it would be discussed after the presentation on the Lower Yakima Valley
22 Groundwater Management Program.

23
24 Moment of Silence

25
26 **III. Working Group Reports:**

27

28 **Data Working Group – Kirk Cook**

29

30 The Data Collection working group met twice since the last meeting. The group has been
31 working on the RCIM component of the nitrogen loading assessment assisted by Yakima
32 County GIS. GIS Director Mike Martian and staff member Cynthia Kozma presented maps
33 that identified septic systems in the Lower Yakima Valley. The ultimate goal is to identify
34 nitrogen loading from that source. Mike explained that the data they're using for the map
35 overlays is largely derived from the public domain (e.g., septic system numbers, fertilization
36 rates). They are using local census data for household numbers (3.8 persons per household).
37 In addition, they are assisting the RCIM identify lawn fertilization rates. Mike explained that
38 GIS is using Melanie Redding's published model to develop the component.

39

40 Kirk Cook provided the members with the handout of his presentation "Preliminary
41 Evaluation of Livestock Facility Contribution to Nitrate Levels in Groundwater – Yakima
42 GWMA." The Data Collection and Livestock/CAFO working groups are discussing the concept
43 and methodology for estimating nitrogen loading from lagoons/ponds and nitrogen
44 contributions from livestock corrals/pens. 230 lagoons and ponds and 120 corrals, pens and
45 compost facilities have been identified in the Lower Yakima Valley GWMA.

46

47 Kirk advised the group that he is seeking local, defensible data from local lagoons. The identity
48 of the lagoons is not important, just verification that the data is from within the GWMA. He
49 noted that all data will be verified.

50

51 There are three methodologies under consideration to estimate nitrogen loading from
52 lagoons and ponds: 1. UC Davis – generally the most rudimentary approach of the three
53 methodologies. Aside from surface area, all other data is derived from other sources. 2.
54 USGS/Ecology – Has more input parameters than the UC Davis approach, but still relies on
55 assumptions and other publications. 3. Darcy's equation – relies on much more local data to
56 derive loading estimates than the other two options. The Darcy analysis is a calculation based
57 on specific lagoon area, liner permeability, underlying soil permeability, local nitrate content
58 of lagoon/pond material and depth of the lagoon/pond.

59

60 In response to a question about David Erickson's methodology, Kirk replied that it is basically
61 the same as Darcy's equation. Erickson's methodology will be presented at the next joint

62 meeting. The Data Collection working group hopes to reach agreement on a methodology by
63 mid-July with loading analysis targeted for late July.

64

65 Data Collection will hold its next joint meeting with the Livestock/CAFO working group on
66 Thursday, June 25, 2015.

67

68 **Livestock/CAFO Working Group –**
69 **Charlie McKinney**

70

71 The Livestock/CAFO Working group has met twice. One of the meetings was the joint session
72 with the Data Collection working group on June 11. Charlie agreed to develop a list of
73 variables on estimating nitrate contribution from livestock corrals/pens for the upcoming
74 meeting on June 25, 2015. The group needs to take a concentrated look at how to come up
75 with numbers.

76

77 **Irrigated Ag Working Group – Jim Trull**

78

79 Jim Trull reported the group has been discussing four key points: 1. Round two of deep soil
80 sampling – 48 fields have been sampled (33 fields were sampled in Round 1). The group is
81 putting data together to measure nutrients. 2. Best Management Practices (BMPs) – the
82 group identified those BMPs positively impacting the reduction of nitrates reaching the
83 groundwater. The group concluded that each of these BMPs needs a brief summary to
84 further define and clarify the practice. 3. Irrigation Water Management – the group discussed
85 the need for data on the problem of over-irrigation and the resultant leaching of nitrates
86 below the root zone. 4. Nutrient Management – the group will be brainstorming options on
87 what needs to improve and possible incentives to get participation.

88

89 **RCIM Working Group – Robert Farrell**

90

91 Robert Farrell reported the group is working on nitrate loading from residential farms and
92 hobby farms. The group is scheduled to meet next week.

93

94 **Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Working Group – Lisa Freund**

95

96 Lisa Freund reported the EPO Working Group is launching Phase II of the high risk well
97 assessment surveys. In Phase I, 172 households participated. The group is hoping to get 300

98 participants in Phase II. The same methodology will be used for Phase II that was used for
99 Phase 1. As such, areas of known high nitrates will be targeted as well as areas with little
100 nitrate data. Properties immediately outside the recently expanded EPA consent boundaries
101 will be included in the targeting. The mailing list for households will be increased from 600
102 in Phase 1 to 1,000 in Phase II. Outreach will start in August and will include direct mailing,
103 radio, flyers, community events, newspaper, etc. Please encourage participation.

104

105 **Regulatory Framework Working Group – Patricia Newhouse**

106

107 Patricia Newhouse reported that Jean Mendoza was voted Chair of the group at the April 2nd
108 meeting. The group discussed ground rules on how it would function and who could
109 participate, timeline for study sessions, goals and objectives, what the final product will look
110 like and who they needed to hear from in order to evaluate the regulatory and non-regulatory
111 programs. On April 23 the group had a presentation from Bonda Habets who provided a
112 broad overview of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). At the third
113 meeting on June 10, 2015, the group heard a presentation from Laurie Crowe with the South
114 Yakima Conservation District who provided an overview of Conservation Districts' history,
115 origins, governing board, duties, funding and responsibilities. Ginny Prest, Washington State
116 Department of Agriculture (WSDA) also made a presentation to the group on Dairy Nutrient
117 Management Plans (DNMP). The group will meet on August 12 to continue the question and
118 answer session with Ginny.

119

120 **IV. Lower Yakima Valley Grounwater Management Program: Jim Davenport**

121

122 Jim Davenport presented the group with the draft Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater
123 Management Program table of contents. Work on the first section, "Charterization of the
124 Area," has begun. They are already beginning to develop the characterization plates, which
125 contain the same information that Mike Martian provided earlier this evening. GIS already
126 has some data in the form of elevation, zoning, geology, and USGS layers of groundwater.
127 When put together, the plates illustrate what the group needs in order to put the GWMA
128 plan together.

129

130 As sections of the plan are completed they will be brought to the GWAC for review and input.
131 The plan is to have the first section completed by September.

132

133 Action: Jim requested feedback on the table of contents within a week to 10 days (June 28).
134 Lisa Freund will email the table of contents to members. [Editorial note: the table of contents
135 was emailed to the GWAC on 6/15/15]. Tabbed binders will be distributed at the August
136 meeting for the forthcoming sections of the plan.

137

138 **V. GWAC Member Comments**

139

140 A member asked how items get placed on the GWAC Agenda: who decides? Vern Redifer
141 replied that Yakima County as lead agency sets the Agenda. Outside presentations will be
142 evaluated in the future and if the presentation may be of sensitive nature, the group will be
143 contacted for input.

144

145 Reminder: All correspondence, including email are public domain. Please be courteous.

146

147 **VI. Public Comment:**

148

149 Frank Lyall addressed an earlier comment made regarding larger farms have better practices
150 [than small farms]. This is an untrue and unfair statement.

151

152 **VII. Next Steps:**

153

- 154 • Members will provide Jim Davenport with feedback on the draft GWMA Plan Table
155 of Contents by June 28.
- 156 • Members with access to local lagoon data are asked to provide it to Kirk Cook.

157

158 **Next Meeting:**

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- 160 • August 20, 2015 5:00 PM
161 Location: Radio KDNA, 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932

162

163 **2015 Meeting Calendar**

164

165 October 15, 2015

166

166 December 17, 2015 (tentative, if needed)

167

168 The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

169

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):

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

170 Meeting summary approved by the GWAC on August 20, 2015.