

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

3                   **MEETING SUMMARY**

4                   **Thursday, April 16, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

5                   **KDNA Conference Room**  
 6                   **121 S. Sunnyside, 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 5:05 p.m. by Jim Davenport, Facilitator.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Seat</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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)		✓

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## 15 II. Welcome & Meeting Overview

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17      Moment of Silence

18

19      Jim Davenport inquired from the members if they had any suggestions for the Agenda;  
20      there were none.

21

22      Jim Davenport announced that to ensure that meeting minutes and notifications are  
23      distributed accurately, it was time to confirm current Work Group Membership and contact  
24      information. All members were asked to review the printed Work Group lists before they  
25      left and confirm their information is correct.

26

27      This led to a discussion around who is able to vote at Work Group meetings; those in  
28      attendance, GWAC Members only, or Formal Work Group Members. There was clarification  
29      that Work Groups could have members who were not GWAC members as all decisions

30       made by the Work Groups are presented to the GWAC. The decision was then between  
31       allowing all in attendance at a Work Group meeting to vote or only Formal Work Group  
32       Members. Pros and Cons for each was discussed. Commissioner Elliott clarified that in April  
33       of 2013 the GWAC decided that only Formal Work Group members could vote – should a  
34       formal vote be called. The GWAC agreed by consensus to keep that decision in place.  
35

### 36       **III. New Members**

37       Introduction of new members:

- 38       • Bill Dunbar, Region X Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency will  
39        be serving as the replacement for Tom Eaton until another staff person is identified.
- 40       • Ryan Ibach, Environmental Health Director of the Yakima Health District is replacing  
41        Gordon Kelly who retired last month.
- 42       • Jessica Black, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Heritage University, new  
43        member.

### 44       **IV. Working Group Reports:**

#### 47       **Livestock/CAFO Working Group – Charlie McKinney**

49       Charlie McKinney reported on the April 9, 2015 meeting. He first noted that the Dept. of  
50       Ag/Yakima County N Loading Assessment team is currently assessing dairies, both on  
51       ground and via aerial photography, for inclusion into the Nitrogen Loading Assessment.  
52       They will be identifying pens, manure storage areas, lagoons, and soil types to determine  
53       contributing sources to nitrates levels. It will be up to the CAFO/Livestock Work Group to  
54       come up with leakage and N contribution factors to assign to these livestock components.  
55       The Work Group would like to hire a consultant (through the County), familiar with the  
56       area, to provide an objective, unbiased assessment of the literature and data. While this is  
57       not expected to be accomplished until January 2016, they will not be delaying the Nitrogen  
58       Loading Assessment as they can move on to working on other potential sources and then  
59       come back and plug in the N factors obtained from the CAFO/Livestock Work Group. The  
60       meeting time for this group is set for the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, with May 7<sup>th</sup> being the  
61       next meeting day. [Editorial note: the May 7 meeting was subsequently postponed]

#### 63       **Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Working Group – Andy Cervantes**

65       The EPO Working Group completed their analysis of the High Risk Well Assessment Survey  
66       and have drafted a letter to inform those who participated in the survey with their results

67 for both Nitrates and Coliform. There are several versions of the letter depending on their  
68 results: nitrates  $\leq$  4.99; nitrates between 5.0 and 9.99 mg/L; nitrates  $\geq$  10 mg/L, as well as  
69 variations addressing satisfactory and unsatisfactory coliform results. The letter will provide  
70 information on the sampling results, areas of concern and a fact sheet developed by the  
71 Washington Department of Health about nitrates in the water. All resources and the letter  
72 will be in both English and Spanish and will identify who to contact for more information.  
73 After much discussion about the fact sheet developed by the Washington Department of  
74 Health, it was determined that current pricing for sample testing should be provided or a  
75 contact number for individuals to call to get pricing. Andy stated that he would provide the  
76 group with a Word document to be able to localize the flyer.

77

#### 78 **RCIM Working Group – Robert Farrell**

79

80 Robert Farrell reported on the March 26, 2015 meeting. At this meeting, Avery Richardson  
81 discussed issues on abandoned wells, raising public awareness about Decommissioning  
82 Wells. They are looking to gather existing information to share with the public on how to  
83 appropriately decommission wells and the impact that abandoning wells has on the  
84 aquifers.

85

#### 86 **Data Working Group – Jim Davenport**

87

88 Vern Redifer presented information that was discussed at the April 9, 2015 meeting. Data  
89 from both the Assessor's office and GIS office have been gathered to develop a geospatial  
90 map illustrating the location of septic tanks in conjunction with US Census data including  
91 number of tenants, average age, and more. These maps and the data contained within  
92 them will be a portion of the Nitrate Loading Assessment.

93

#### 94 **Regulatory Framework Working Group – Jean Mendoza**

95

96 Jean Mendoza announced that the next study session will be on April 23, 2015; the session  
97 will include a presentation by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Topics  
98 include: NRCS Budget and Focus of Funding for Washington State and Yakima County, NRCS  
99 590 Nutrient Management Standards and Policy, NRCS 521 Lagoon Management Standards  
100 and Policy, NRCS 359 Waste Treatment Lagoon Standards and Policy, NRCS Irrigation  
101 Management Guidelines, and NRCS Implementation of Environmental Justice Initiatives. An  
102 email with more information about the meeting will be sent out.

103

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

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106 Jim Trull reported on the April 6, 2015 meeting stating that Round 2 of the Deep Soil  
107 Sampling will include 50 new fields with no repeats from the first Round. They are hoping  
108 that by fall they will have even more participants so they can obtain more data. The group  
109 is also working on BMP's for Irrigated Ag and how to use them for education and incentives.  
110 They are looking at the GWMA timeline and will give Vern a response soon regarding the  
111 schedule of their current tasks.

112

113 **V. GWMA PLAN TIMELINE STATUS: Vern Redifer**

114

115 Vern presented an update on the GWMA Program timeline. He has been getting feedback  
116 from the Working Groups and is waiting on more Nitrate Loading information from Kirk  
117 Cook before finalizing it. The goal of the timeline is to track progress and show  
118 accountability as well as provide information for the upcoming contracts between  
119 Department of Ecology and Yakima County which will require a delivery date to deliver the  
120 final program. Currently the timeline shows a 2017 deadline but it depends on Deep Soil  
121 Sampling (DSS) linked with the Nitrogen Loading Assessment.

122

123 **VI. Status of groundwater Monitoring System Design**

124

125 Vern spoke about GWAC's decision to have an ambient groundwater monitoring system.  
126 He met with the Pacific Groundwater to brainstorm the scope of work designed for the  
127 GWMA area. Once information is compiled they will discuss with the Data Working Group  
128 to make sure all points are covered.

129

130 **VII. Committee Business**

131

132 The February 19, 2014 meeting summary was approved as presented.

133

134 **VIII. GWAC Member Comments**

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136 The Department of Ecology will be holding a meeting at 6 p.m., April 21 at the Zillah Civic  
137 Center in Zillah to discuss water quality permit for concentrated animal feeding operations.

138

139 **IX. Public Comment:**

140  
141        Jim Davenport introduced Tung Njuyen, a PhD candidate at Washinton State University. He  
142        is currently working on a physical model of the Lower Yakima Valley Basin examining how  
143        groundwater travels. While he is utilizing USGS model data, he needs nitrate source data  
144        such as what will be collected from the Nitrate Loading Assessment. He will feed this source  
145        data into a transport model to hypothesize nitrate movement and contribution to Yakima  
146        River Surface water. He predicts completing the model by December of 2015 and entering  
147        the nitrogen source data into that model by December of 2016.

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149        **X. Next Steps:**

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151        **Next Meeting:**

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153        • June 18, 2015 5:00 PM

154        Location: Radio KDNA, 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger, WA 98932

155

156        **2015 Meeting Calendar**

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158        June 18, 2015

159        August 20, 2015

160        October 15, 2015

161        December 17, 2015 (tentative, if needed)

162

163        The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

164

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