

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Discussion of data sources and remaining Work Plan Items

Working Group Members

David Bowen, Chair (Department of Ecology), Gary Bahr (Department of Agriculture), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Sue Wedam (LV Community Rep.), Patricia Newhouse (Community Rep Position #2), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama reservation)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Participants

David Bowen, Jim Dyjak, Jean Mendoza, Laurie Crowe Larry Fendell, Sandy Braden, Sue Wedam, Jason Sheehan, Stuart Crane, Jim Davenport, Vern Redifer and Bobbie Brady (Yakima County Support Services).

Key Discussion Points

David welcomed Jim Davenport back to the group and opened the meeting at 5:08 PM. David asked everyone to refer to the list of NRCS standards provided with this month's agenda so that the group could continue their BMP discussion. He reminded everyone that the items in yellow had been approved by the group to keep at last month's meeting, the items highlighted in blue were those the group had asked Jim Dyjak to research and suggest for the group's review and the non-highlighted practices were those he had found and forwarded earlier in the month for comment by the group. David also provided the group with written comments that were sent to him from members who had been unable to attend the meeting

The group discussed whether or not to confine their consideration of the NRCS standards to practices that had already been approved by an engineer and recognized in Washington State or to look at suggested practices from across the Country. It was finally decided that anything that had been recommended that could have a positive effect should be on the list and could be modified and tailored for this State at a later date.

The group began its review of the list. David reminded everyone that the group's focus was on pens, corrals, lagoons/ponds, composting, feed storage and animal mortality operations and the reduction of nitrates. After review and discussion of each standard it was the group's consensus that the following standards be removed Nos.: 309, 656, 605, 595, 443, 436, 441, 468, 576, 367 and 527. The group decided to keep Nos. 393, 318, 578 and 635. The group also decided to keep No. 442

Sprinkler Systems, but Laurie Crowe will look at the NRCS and find the one that is actually applicable to dust abatement.

After a brief break David asked the group to consider what topics hadn't been addressed in the BMP discussion. As an example David said he had spent time going through the NRCS standards and hadn't been able to find one that addressed silage. Laurie said silage gets addressed but is intertwined with NRCS standards on other topics. The group discussed several BMP actions for silage. A member produced a BMP from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency about managing leachate and feed storage area runoff that the group could look at. Members also brought up and discussed composting requirements, the number of cows in an enclosure, and additional BMP's to require improvements on lagoons and to look specifically at older lagoons. The group also discussed adaptive management, the economics of overcrowding, the ability to measure BMP's and the measurement of the overall effectiveness of a group of BMP's.

David then turned the group's attention to the list of unanswered questions Jim Dyjak felt the group should discuss. The group looked specifically at Question No. 3 – "How can we encourage people to use BMP's?" A member believed that education increases awareness. Another member felt that Question No. 2, "What is the best way to encourage the use of BMP's in ALL of the agricultural community (CAFO, fruit, hops, produce, etc.)?" was a very good question. Vern mentioned that at the last Irrigated Ag meeting he had suggested that group look at the NRCS practices as well. He added that the group had suggested as a possible solution that the GWMA go to the growers meetings held in the winter by a variety of commercial fertilizer companies to educate them about these issues. David concluded the discussion by asking members to get any other ideas to him in the next few weeks. His goal was to look at regulatory framework at the next meeting which will be on Thursday, December 1, 2016, 5:00-7:00 PM. David will put together what he has collected and send it out in advance of the meeting for everyone to consider. The meeting concluded at 7:04 PM.

Resources Requested

Recommendations for GWAC

Deliverables/Products Status

Proposed Next Steps

Laurie Crowe will look at the NRCS standards and find the one that is applicable to dust abatement.

Members are to provide David with any other ideas for the regulatory framework discussion in the next few weeks. David will put together what he has collected and send it out in advance of the meeting for everyone to consider.