

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, December 15, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Radio KDNA Conference Rooms 1 & 2
121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger WA*

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

I. Call to Order: This meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM by Vern Redifer, 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)		✓
Ron Cowin	Roza-Sunnyside Joint Board of Control	✓	
	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)	✓	
Dave Cole	Yakima Health District		✓
Ryan Ibach	Yakima Health District (alternate)	✓	
Dr. Troy Peters	WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center		✓
Lucy Edmondson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		✓
Peter Contreras (by phone)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)	✓	
Elizabeth Sanchey	Yakama Nation		✓
Stuart Crane	Yakama Nation (alternate)		✓
Virginia "Ginny" Prest (by phone)	WA Department of Agriculture	✓	
Jaclyn Hancock	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)		✓
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	✓	
Ginny Stern	WA Department of Health (alternate)		✓
David Bowen	WA Department of Ecology	✓	
Sage Park	WA Department of Ecology		✓
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative	✓	
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		✓
Jessica Black	Heritage University		✓
Matt Bachmann	USGS	✓	

13 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Vern Redifer had everyone present
 14 introduce themselves. He then asked everyone to pause for a moment in order to prepare
 15 for the meeting and reviewed the evening’s agenda.

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 17 **III. Budget Discussion:** Vern asked everyone to refer to the budget worksheets he had
 18 provided to facilitate the group’s discussion. He noted that the unspent funding balance
 19 was \$1,156,043. Of that, Yakima County would require \$128,362 in the next year to
 20 complete its administrative work, write and coordinate the plan, maintain the database,
 21 GIS, website, facilitation and RCIM loading which left \$1,027,681 in funding that could be
 22 reallocated from the group’s previous budget.

23

24 Several members asked some clarifying questions about items that had existed in the
 25 original budget. Vern then asked the group to begin to discuss how it might best spend the
 26 remaining funds in 2017. He also encouraged the group to suggest any items that might
 27 need to be added or reallocated. Matt Bachmann updated the PGG estimates for the
 28 planning, analysis and implementation of the ambient groundwater monitoring network.
 29 The following suggestions were then made for the newly authorized budget:
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Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Plan Planning, analysis and implementation	\$331,000.00
Drain Monitoring	\$60,000
Drinking Water Monitoring Assessment of the quality of existing domestic wells – six samples of 160 domestic wells in the next year	\$350,000.00
Monitoring Analysis For ambient groundwater, drain and drinking water monitoring referred to above	\$76,681.00
Septic System Maintenance Outreach Proposed by the RCIM Working Group	\$10,000.00
Educational Outreach Campaigns, Surveys To educate the public about what the GWAC is doing. This includes billboard costs of \$19,000 already approved.	\$100,000.00
Irrigation Water Management Workshops, Shallow Soil Sampling (1 to 2 feet) for Growers and Education	\$100,000.00

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 32 The following items were removed from the budget:
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 34 Hot Spot Monitoring – although this had been a priority from the Data Collection Working
 35 Group the group felt it should be done after information started to come in from the
 36 Ambient Groundwater, drain and drinking water monitoring.
 37 Abandoned Wells – Vern explained that the joint working group had decided to pursue a
 38 pilot program with money available through the Department of Health’s Source Water
 39 Protection Fund.
 40 Contingency Reserve – There was no need to fund a contingency reserve as the grant
 41 monies are only available through 2017.

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43 Wellhead risk assessment surveys (Vern noted that he had looked at the data for trends but
44 found none); deep soil sampling; nutrient loading database, analysis, reporting (WSDA);
45 dairy pens and manure storage sampling; lagoon assessment based on EPA data, regulatory
46 review; and best management practices either required no additional funding or no longer
47 needed to be pursued.

48

49 After a great deal of discussion there were no further questions and a consensus to adopt
50 the revised budget was reached with no further comments or objections. A copy of the
51 revision is attached as Exhibit A.

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53 **IV. Working Group Reports:** The group agreed to postpone the reports until the next GWAC
54 meeting given the lateness of the hour.

55 **V. Committee Business:** Prior to the approval of last month's meeting summary a member
56 voiced concerns as to whether the Ambient Monitoring Network Plan had been approved
57 and if the group had agreed to the inclusion of the data from the dairy clusters. Several
58 members responded noting that the EPA had agreed to give Yakima County access to the
59 data and the plan had been approved at last month's GWAC meeting. The November 17
60 summary was then approved as presented.

61 **VI. Public Comment:** A member of the public thought the educational and incentive plan
62 proposed for growers encouraging good behavior was crucial. She also suggested that a
63 copy of the revised budget the group had approved be included as part of this meeting
64 summary.

65 **VII. Next Meeting:** The group decided to convene again on February 16, 2017. Vern advised the
66 group to expect monthly meetings in 2017.

67 **VIII. Next Steps:** None.

68 **IX. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on February 16, 2017.

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