

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

3 **MEETING SUMMARY**

4 **Thursday, July 13, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

5 **Yakima County Road Maintenance Conference Room**
 6 **1216 South 18th Street**
 7 **Yakima, WA 98901**

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

13 **I. Call to Order:** This meeting was called to order at 5:02 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	✓	
Ron Heit	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	✓	
Nick Peak	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchez	Yakama Nation		✓
Stuart Crane	Yakama Nation (alternate)	✓	
Virginia "Ginny" Prest	WA Department of Agriculture		✓
Gary Bahr	WA Department of Agriculture (alternate)	✓	
Andy Cervantes	WA Department of Health	✓	
Sheryl Howe	WA Department of Health (alternate)		✓
David Bowen	WA Department of Ecology	✓	
Sage Park	WA Department of Ecology (alternate)		✓
Lino Guerra	Hispanic Community Representative		✓
Rick Perez	Hispanic Community Representative (alternate)		✓
Jessica Black	Heritage University		✓
Matt Bachmann	USGS	✓	

14 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Vern announced that GWAC member
 15 Dave Cole (Yakima Health District) tragically died in a motorcycle accident the night before.
 16 He asked that members remember Dave's family in their thoughts and prayers. Everyone
 17 then introduced themselves. Vern reviewed the agenda – there were no additions. The
 18 group paused for a moment of silence.
 19

20 **III. Working Group Reports:** The Funding Working Group was the only group that had met
 21 since the last GWAC meeting and therefore it was the only one to report.
 22 **Funding:** Vern stated that the group had met the previous evening. They had good
 23 discussions about the alternatives they felt were most likely to move forward and potential
 24 funding sources. The group also discussed what the GWAC might look like in 2018.

25
26 **IV. Review and Discuss Results of Survey Monkey on Alternative Land and Water Use**
27 **Management Strategies for Reaching Program Goals and Objectives per WAC 173-100-**
28 **100(4):** After discussions how to proceed through the results of the survey, the group
29 decided to look at those items with the most “yes” votes first. As discussions ensued the
30 group developed a color-coding system. Green meant the alternative should be kept on the
31 list for further review; green and the word “consolidate” meant that the alternative should
32 be consolidated with other similar alternatives that were suggested elsewhere; red meant
33 the alternative should be removed and blue meant that the group was going to “revisit” the
34 alternative. Vern said of the 246 alternatives there was unanimity on three. 14 of the 22
35 members had voted but there were no names disclosed on the votes.

36
37 **The group agreed to keep these alternatives on the list for further review**
38

39 **No. 66:** Encourage commodity groups to provide education on water management and
40 fertilizer use through regular meetings.
41 **No. 79:** Implement Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Plan.
42 **No. 80:** Implement Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Plan.
43 **No. 159:** Encourage the WSDA and Conservation Districts to continue education and
44 outreach to livestock operators about impacts and practices related to compliance with
45 relevant State and federal requirements for groundwater protection, particularly addressing
46 those not currently acting in good faith toward that objective. *The group agreed to delete*
47 *the word “livestock” found in the first sentence and the phrase at the end of the alternative*
48 *“. . . particularly addressing those not currently acting in good faith toward that objective.”*
49 **No. 10:** Identify or create an organization (Lead Entity) responsible for implementation and
50 oversight of the LYV GWMA Groundwater Management Plan and acquisition of stable
51 funding to support their activities. Potential entities include Yakima County, South Yakima
52 Conservation District (SYCD), Yakima County Health District, Washington State Department
53 of Agriculture (WSDA), Ecology, and/or a yet to be formed entity. *The group agreed to*
54 *delete the sentence: “Potential entities include Yakima County, South Yakima Conservation*
55 *District (SYCD), Yakima County Health District, Washington State Department of Agriculture*
56 *(WSDA), Ecology, and/or a yet to be formed entity.”*
57 **No. 154:** Inform farmers of those BMPs prioritized by Livestock/CAFO and Irrigated
58 Agriculture Work Groups from HDR list to reflect greatest effectiveness in nitrate reduction.
59 *The group agreed to delete the words “from HDR” since the Livestock/CAFO Working Group*
60 *did not come to a consensus on the HDR list. Jim Davenport said that the HDR list had not*

61 been reviewed by the Irrigated Ag Working Group. Another member thought Jim Trull
62 (former chair of the group until his passing) had worked on that list before Jim Davenport
63 began. Yakima County Support Staff will check into it.

64 **No. 195:** Encourage advanced irrigation management. Recognizing that there is significant
65 cost involved in changing an irrigation system, look for strategic opportunities in the area
66 where the use of more advanced irrigation management systems could have the greatest
67 benefit for reducing nitrogen impacts to groundwater. One example of advanced irrigation
68 management is electronic sensor irrigation water management (IWM). Identify federal,
69 state and local incentive programs, such as grants, and low interest loans, to facilitate a
70 transition to more advanced irrigation management in those areas. *The group agreed to
71 add the words "EQIP-like" at the end of the alternative.*

72 **No. 29:** Maintain the County's GWMA website.

73 **No. 23:** Provide Yakima County fiscal support to maintain its GIS data base on the GWMA
74 over time. *The group agreed it was premature to say "Provide Yakima County fiscal support
75 to maintain its GIS data base" The sentence was rewritten as follows: "Maintain a GIS
76 data base on the GWMA over time."*

77 **No. 223:** Use effective application schedules, placement, rate and time of application and
78 speed of release for specific crop requirements.

79 **No. 75:** Inform the public about the health risks related to nitrates in drinking water. *Andy
80 Cervantes, Department of Health, stated that they were already doing this and
81 recommended the words "Have DOH continue to" be added to the beginning of the first
82 sentence. The group agreed.*

83 **No. 11:** Implement an Adaptive Management Plan utilizing data collected, progress made,
84 or lack of progress to inform the community on adjustments that need to be implemented.
85 Plan could incorporate availability of technology, education and outreach, tracking exports,
86 land use regulations, treatment systems, and other charges to inform decision makers
87 regarding management changes necessary for a successful program.

88 **No. 165:** Support and advocate private, public, and industry investment in technology,
89 including at research institutions, specific to addressing nitrate contamination in
90 groundwater, especially where it creates improvements for the public good.

91 **No. 18:** Further develop a local forum for disseminating information and facilitating
92 technical exchange regarding BMPs for livestock management and groundwater protection.
93 Endorse and distribute materials by all effective means that will educate the public about
94 the facts of livestock waste management and the science of groundwater protection. *The
95 group agreed to add the words "include all fertilizer types."*

96

97 **The group agreed to keep these on the list and consolidate them with similar alternatives**

98

99 **No. 228:** Inform farmers that fertilization and supplemental irrigation beyond the optimum
100 rate will not necessarily produce better yields or higher profits without serious side effects.

101 **No. 68:** Educate irrigation users on the consequences of too much irrigation.

102 **No. 74:** Encourage commodity groups to provide education on water management and
103 fertilizer use through regular meetings.

104 **No. 81:** Establish a fund and plan to analyze data collected in ambient water quality
105 monitoring and drinking water well monitoring programs. Study short-term seasonal
106 variations in nitrate concentrations over next year or two – addresses how changes in
107 nutrient application over the agricultural cycle affects things. Study long-term trends that
108 develop over several years – to track whether the overall picture is getting better, whether
109 changes recommended by the GWMA are having impact.

110 **No. 128:** Establish or maintain ongoing, extended funding necessary for the Yakima County
111 Department of Public Services and Yakima Health District to actively participate in water
112 quality improvement, testing, monitoring, scientific data analysis, and infrastructure
113 development.

114 **No. 161:** Create and maintain a central depository of public information online, as part of
115 an Education and Outreach Program (EOP) informing producers of the nitrate issue,
116 community impacts, and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

117 **No. 49:** Broaden the pool of people GWMA is educating or communicating with.

118 **No. 50:** Maintain a public education program regarding nitrate pollution and health risk
119 over a 5-10 year period. Provide all materials distributed to the public in English and
120 Spanish.

121 **No. 69:** Inform farmers about technological improvements in irrigation that permit easier
122 management of water, descriptions of specific improved technology, and economic viability
123 of technological advancements.

124 **No. 142:** Request the county include the EPO flyer on OSS maintenance in correspondence
125 with GWMA homeowners for 5 years, i.e., tax bills, property transfers.

126

127 **The group agreed this alternative should be removed from the list**

128

129 **No. 222:** Avoid fertilizer material and manure spills during transport, storage, and
130 application.

131

132

- 133 **The group agreed to revisit this alternative at a later date**
- 134
- 135 **No. 94:** Review and evaluate the WSDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program inspection
136 protocols to assist in determining if additional resources should be allocated and identify
137 any areas for improvement of the inspections themselves. *The group agreed to add quote*
138 *marks around the word "protocols."*
- 139 **No. 1:** Pump, treat and reinject groundwater.
- 140
- 141 A member asked if the survey results the group had reviewed could be sent electronically to
142 members so they would have a chance to review it in better detail before the next meeting.
143 She also asked if alternatives could be added to the list. Vern directed the group to send
144 any additions to Yakima County Support Staff. They would be added to the list and sent out
145 with the rest. Another member was concerned how long the review would take and
146 suggested the group should extend their meeting times; Vern believed the process would
147 move along more quickly now that the group had developed a process.
- 148
- 149 **V. Committee Business:** The June 29, 2017 meeting summary was approved with one change.
- 150
- 151 **VI. Public Comment:** There were no public comments. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.
- 152
- 153 **VII. Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 27, 2017, Radio KDNA Conference Rooms 1-2, 121 Sunnyside
154 Avenue, Granger.
- 155
- 156 **VIII. Next Steps:** 1) Yakima County Support Staff will check to see if they can find Jim Trull's
157 work on a BMP list. 2) Vern directed members to send any additional alternatives to Yakima
158 County Support Staff in the next few days. They would be added to the current list review
159 list and sent out next week.
- 160
- 161 **IX. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on July 27, 2017.