



Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):

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

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

3 **MEETING SUMMARY**

4 **Thursday, July 27, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

5 *Radio KDNA Conference Rooms 1-2*
 6 *121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger, WA 98932*
 7

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:** This meeting was called to order at 5:01 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	✓	

Rodney Heit	South Yakima Conservation District (Alternate)		✓
John Van Wingerden, III	Port of Sunnyside	✓	
Jay Decker	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		✓
Lucy Edmondson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		✓
Nick Peak	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (alternate)		✓
Elizabeth Sanchey	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		✓

13 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Vern welcomed everyone and reviewed
 14 the agenda – there were no additions. Everyone present introduced themselves. The
 15 group paused for a moment of silence in preparation for the meeting.

16
 17 **III. Continued Review and Discussion of Results of Survey Monkey on Alternative Land and**
 18 **Water Use Management Strategies for Reaching Program Goals and Objectives per WAC**
 19 **173-100-100(4):** Vern indicated that he had organized the alternatives into categories
 20 grouping similar alternatives together to help expedite the review. He had also received
 21 additional alternatives from members which he included in the spreadsheet. These are
 22 marked as *NEW* in the summary. Vern reminded everyone of the color coding system the
 23 group had devised at its last meeting: green meant keep the alternative; red meant delete,
 24 and blue meant additional discussion was required. Later on the group added yellow which
 25 meant keep the alternative but consolidate it with others. A member had compiled a list of

26 questions that would be important to ask once the group began discussing which
27 alternatives to ultimately keep. The questions were as follows: 1) who will implement it; 2)
28 who's the target; 3) is someone already doing this; 4) is there sufficient funding; and 5) is it
29 economically viable?

30

31 **The group agreed to keep these alternatives on the list for further review. (Green)**

32

33 **No. 158:** Recommend that dairies and CAFOs use those Best Management Practices
34 contained within Attachment B to the Livestock/CAFO Work Group's Report to the GWAC.

35 **No. 155:** Determine who implements the BMP and who monitors it and the time frame in
36 which to measure/monitor it – problem with available expertise, timing, installation cost.

37 **No. 170:** Install liners in liquid waste storage lagoons.

38 **No. 174:** Improve composting regulations.

39 **No. 139:** Request that the Department of Ecology develop a plan for finding and
40 decommissioning abandoned wells in the next 12 months, using the LYVGWMA as a pilot
41 project. *The group agreed to add "revise as needed" to this alternative.*

42 **No. 137:** *The group agreed to split this alternative into two as follows: #1 Educate the*
43 *public regarding the importance of the integrity of wells, particularly those without a well*
44 *log; and, #2 fund and encourage well inspections by the Yakima Health District or*
45 *professional well engineers.*

46 **No. 140:** Permit the repair or decommissioning of wells by general contractors, rather than
47 exclusively by well-drillers, so as to diminish costs of decommissioning.

48 **No. 248: NEW:** Require WSDA to establish a monitoring system for compliance with NRCS
49 Standard 317 Composting Facility on Washington dairies and to penalize operations that do
50 not comply with this standard. *The group added: "For new compost facilities, phase in for*
51 *existing."*

52 **No. 254: NEW:** Encourage prompt incorporation of manures and fertilizers after
53 application to cropland. *The group added "where appropriate" to the end of this sentence.*

54 **No. 255: NEW:** Discourage broadcast application of manures to cropland.

55 **No. 256: NEW:** Encourage application of manures and fertilizers by surface banding.

56 **No. 17:** Cooperate with the WCC and WSDA in their efforts to document regulatory
57 compliance for dairies within the GWMA that are completing and implementing Dairy
58 Nutrient Management Plans (DNMP). Explore the possibility of disclosing non-proprietary
59 data produced through the DNMP process.

60

- 61 **No. 166:** Require more complete disclosure of Dairy Nutrient Management Plans. *The*
 62 *group agreed to remove the first word “require” and insert the word “seek” in its place.*
 63 **No. 19:** Quantify the nutrient value and rate of release of nitrate from livestock waste
 64 under various Lower Yakima Valley conditions to become part of the nutrient management
 65 guidelines.
 66 **No. 182:** Amend Dairy Nutrient Management Act to extend WSDA’s authority to land
 67 application acreage (off dairies) with which dairy facilities contract pursuant to nutrient
 68 management plans. *Delete words: “with which dairy facilities contract pursuant to nutrient*
 69 *management plans.” Add words: “Ginny wants other nutrient sources too.”*
 70 **No. 248:** *NEW:* WSDA/DNMP will complete Technical No. 23 inspections on all Waste
 71 Storage Ponds (lagoons) in the GWMA boundaries.
 72 **No. 218:** Distribute information to farmers on what can happen with applied manure, what
 73 should be applied and reasonable, agronomic rates of application. *The group agreed to*
 74 *change the word “manure” to “nitrogen.”*
 75 **No. 171:** Install impervious surfaces beneath silage/feed storage. *Delete the word “feed”*
 76 *and add the word “recommend” at the end of the sentence.*

77
 78 **The group agreed to keep these on the list and consolidate them with similar alternatives.**

79 **(Yellow)**

- 80
 81 **No. 116:** Search for abandoned wells.
 82 **No. 60:** Offer incentives for property owners to identify and properly abandon wells.
 83 **No. 118:** Compare Google Earth to Yakima County GIS images to determine building
 84 changes and thus possible well usage changes. Focus first on hotspot high density areas in
 85 GWMA. Ground truth suspected problem wells.
 86 **No. 121:** Provide some form of protection for self-reporting of abandoned or improperly
 87 decommissioned wells.
 88 **No. 115:** Provide grant funding for well decommissioning.
 89 **No. 119:** Educate realtors and banking industry about disclosure of abandoned wells in
 90 property transfers.
 91 **No. 120:** Educate public regarding liability of an ill-secured well.
 92 **No. 252:** *NEW:* Require WSDA to establish an air monitoring system for compliance with
 93 NRCS Standard 590 Nutrient Management and NRCS Standard 317 Composting Facility on
 94 Washington dairy farms and to penalize operations that do not comply with these
 95 standards. *The group agreed to add this one to Alternative No. 251.*

96 **No. 231:** Require soil sampling results and area fertilized from exported dairy manure as a
 97 precondition of exportation of dairy nutrients off dairy properties. *The group added the*
 98 *note: "See No. 182."*

99 **No. 229:** Develop an approach for data collection of volume and location of manure
 100 application off dairy sites. *The group added the note: "See No. 182."*

101

102 **The group agreed these alternatives should be removed from the list. (Red)**

103

104 **No. 156:** Identify and publish a list of poor management practices. Recommend that they
 105 be terminated or avoided.

106 **No. 181:** Create a state CAFO Siting Team, composed of representatives of relevant state
 107 agencies with support from USGS, to which the county commission could refer proposed
 108 CAFO sitings or expansions. The CAFO Siting Team would provide a recommended site
 109 suitability determination, based upon a predetermined scoring system, including
 110 description of environmental risk factors and mitigation strategies.

111 **No. 176:** Remove wastes from barnyards and other areas of animal concentrations and
 112 frequently convey them to waste storage or treatment facilities.

113 **No. 178:** Entrain water (as rain or snow-melt) collected from roofs away from animal pen or
 114 manure collection facilities.

115 **No. 179:** Drain low areas where ponds accumulate to collect and manage waste waters.

116 **No. 173:** Compost more manure.

117 **No. 59:** Advise the public that GWMA is looking for abandoned wells. Wellhead protection
 118 education.

119 **No. 73:** Advise the public that GWMA is looking for abandoned wells.

120 **No. 117:** Send a postcard to 10 percent of known property owners on record having a well
 121 asking about knowledge of older wells.

122 **No. 138:** Require that site inspections for possible abandoned wells be performed before
 123 building permits are issues for properties that are proposed to be redeveloped after prior
 124 development of domestic, agricultural or industrial uses.

125 **No. 204:** Identify and decommission abandoned agricultural irrigation wells.

126 **No. 123:** Amend RCW 18.104.055 to dedicate a portion of a notice of intent fees to a fund
 127 to be used by Ecology (or Health) for the proper decommissioning of wells in those cases
 128 where DOE (or Health) determines that such publicly-funded action is necessary in the
 129 public interest to protect or enhance the quality of public health (infirmity of the public
 130 health).

131 **No. 122:** Seek legislative change on requirements for well decommissioning, make them
132 cheaper.

133 **No. 253:** Establish a plan for monitoring emissions of reactive nitrogen to the atmosphere
134 in the GWMA target area. Combine this with modes such as the USGS SPARROW model and
135 the National Atmospheric Deposition Program’s Ammonia Monitoring Network to provide
136 ongoing measurement of nitrogen volatilization.

137 **No. 95:** Add staff to WSDA to oversee Dairy Nutrient Management Plans and complaints
138 regarding manure spills.

139 **No. 101:** Charge dairies for Conservation District preparation of Dairy Nutrient
140 Management Plans.

141

142 **The group agreed to revisit these alternatives at a later date. [Blue]**

143

144 **No. 249:** NEW: Enforce RCW 70.95.020, RCW 70.95.100, RCW 70.95.160, RCW 70.95.165,
145 RCW 70.95.179, RCW 70.95.180, RCW 70.95.185, RCW 70.95.200, RCW 70.95.205, RCW
146 70.95.240, RCW 70.95.280, RCW 70.95.285, RCW 70.95.290, RCW 70.95.300, RCW
147 70.95.305, RCW 70.95.306, RCW 70.95.310, and RCW 70.95.315 (Note - RCW Chapter 70.95
148 is titled "Solid Waste Management - Reduction and Recycling")

149 **No. 250:** NEW: Enforce WAC 173-350-010, WAC 173-350-040, WAC 173-350-200, WAC
150 173-350-220, WAC 173-350-225, WAC 173-350-230, WAC 173-350-320, WAC 173-350-330,
151 WAC 173-350-500, WAC 173-350-700, WAC 173-350-710, and WAC 173-350-715. (Note -
152 WAC Chapter 173-350 is titled (Solid Waste Handling Standards"))

153 **No. 251:** NEW: Require WSDA to establish air monitoring system for compliance with NRCS
154 Standard 370 Atmospheric Resource Quality Management on Washington farms and to
155 educate operations that do not comply with this standard.

156 **No. 257:** NEW: Enforce RCW 70.94.011, 70.94.040, RCW 70.94.141, RCW 70.94.151, RCW
157 70.94.152, RCW 70.94.153, RCW 70.94.154, RCW 70.94.161, RCW 70.94.181, RCW
158 70.94.331, RCW 70.94.380 (Note - RCW Chapter 70.94 is titled "Washington Clean Air Act").

159 **No. 258:** NEW: Enforce WAC 173-442-030, WAC 173-442-040, WAC 173-442-050, WAC
160 173-442-060, WAC 173-442-070, WAC 173-442-160, WAC 173-442-170, WAC 173-442-200,
161 WAC 173-442-210, and WAC 173-442-220 (Note - WAC Chapter 173-442 is titled "Clean Air
162 Rule")

163 **No. 93:** Summarize the DNMP reporting and provide information that would disclose the
164 amount of manure the CAFO's in the GWMA created and where it was distributed.

165 **No. 94:** Review and evaluate the WSDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program inspection
166 "protocols" to assist in determining if additional resources should be allocated and identify

167 any areas for improvement of the inspections themselves. *The group agreed to keep this in*
168 *the blue category (it had been discussed at the last meeting).*

169

170 **IV. Committee Business:** The July 13, 2017 meeting summary was approved as presented.

171

172 **V. Public Comment:** There were no public comments. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

173

174 **VI. Next Meeting:** August 10, 2017, Yakima County Road Maintenance Conference Room, 1216
175 South 18th Street, Yakima.

176

177 **VII. Next Steps:** The group will be encouraged to look at the RCWs and WACs contained in
178 Alternative Nos. 249, 250, 257 and 258 prior to discussion at the group's next meeting.

179

180 **VIII. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on September 21, 2017.