

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

3 **MEETING SUMMARY**

4 **Thursday, August 24, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

5 **Radio KDNE 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 5:05 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	✓ Phone	
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	✓ Phone	

13 **II. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Vern welcomed everyone and
 14 acknowledged the meeting lacked a quorum. The group agreed to move ahead with its
 15 review of the alternatives realizing absent members might desire to comment at a later
 16 date. Vern then reviewed the agenda – there were no additions. Everyone introduced
 17 themselves and paused for a moment of silence.

18
 19 **III. Continued Review and Discussion of Results of Survey Monkey on Alternative Land and**
 20 **Water Use Management Strategies for Reaching Program Goals and Objectives per WAC**
 21 **173-100-100(4):**

22
 23 **The group agreed to keep these alternatives on the list for further review. (Green)**

24

- 25 **No. 187:** Incentivize development of technologies and provide information about
26 improvements made in nutrient management and agronomic rate application of fertilizer by
27 specific developing technologies. *The group agreed to take out the words "Incentivize*
28 *development of technologies and."*
- 29 **No. 225:** Identify areas with highly permeable and susceptible soils where fertilization and
30 pesticide application should be most carefully managed. *The group agreed to delete the*
31 *words "and pesticide."*
- 32 **No. 227:** Amend the list of prohibited uses under the Critical Aquifer Recharge Area
33 ordinance 16C.09.070 (6) to include activities that would add nutrients to the soil column
34 beyond those amounts that can be taken up within a reasonable time by plant materials. ☐
35 Or perhaps, activities inconsistent with NCRS Code 590.
- 36 **No. 125:** Encourage municipalities within the GWMA to extend municipal sewer systems
37 within urban growth areas and retire ROSS and LOSS.
- 38 **No. 126:** Encourage connection of residences within urban growth zones to sewer systems
39 extended by municipalities.
- 40 **No. 127:** Encourage the development of group septicage-management or treatment systems
41 in areas outside urban growth zones where the density of residential development could
42 exacerbate the effect of multiple OSS on groundwater quality.
- 43 **No. 130:** Request Yakima County Public Services to perform an engineering study of
44 locations outside urban growth areas where there is rural residential medium to high
45 density OSS and the nitrate concentration is greater than the state water quality standard
46 where community waste water systems could feasibly be constructed in lieu of individual
47 on-site septic systems.
- 48 **No. 7:** Construct a potable water line from nearby developed area into deadhead water
49 stations at central rural location (permit potable water collection at deadhead water
50 stations).
- 51 **No. 145:** Require new developments to address impacts on groundwater quality through
52 permitting review of a site plan review criteria.
- 53 **No. 232:** Regulate synthetic fertilizer and amount of water used if manure application is
54 going to be regulated.
- 55
- 56 **The group agreed to keep these on the list and consolidate them with similar alternatives.**
57 **(Yellow)**
- 58
- 59 **No. 215:** Provide funding for nutrient management education or information distribution.

- 60 **No. 224:** Where possible, apply nitrogen through to plant-specific root zone means, rather
61 than broadcast application.
- 62 **No. 5:** Regionalize and connect users to a larger system with reliable quality water pipe
63 connection to an existing system.
- 64 **No. 62:** Offer incentives to connect households on private wells near community water
65 systems to connect to a community water system. (Nitrate Treatment Pilot Program-June
66 2011).
- 67

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

69

- 70 **No. 216:** Make Dairy Nutrient Management Plan records available upon Department of
71 Agriculture determination of potential excessive application of nutrients.
- 72 **No. 235:** Require that prescriptions for soil amendment with organic or inorganic fertilizers
73 be written by certified professionals, and that purchases of inorganic fertilizers limited to
74 those for which prescriptions have been written.
- 75 **No. 236:** Establish a safety coefficient limiting application of nitrogen, whether organic
76 (manure) or inorganic (synthetic), to take into account the problem of intervening cause,
77 e.g., change in the weather or water supply that makes the application or the prior
78 application of nitrogen excessive in the event of change in anticipated circumstances.
- 79 **No. 217:** Incentivize investment in crops that require less fertilization, or which take up
80 greater amounts of nitrogen.
- 81 **No. 124:** Amend authority of Department of Ecology to gain access to properties where
82 manure is spread outside land subject to nutrient management plans.
- 83 **No. 31:** Consider the enactment of a county ordinance addressing the density of segments
84 of nitrate producing agricultural activity within the areas currently zoned as agricultural
85 within the GWMA.
- 86 **No. 32:** Consider creation of subcategories of agricultural zoning, limiting density in those
87 areas where soils are more permeable or groundwater moves faster.
- 88 **No. 33:** Consider overlay zoning ordinance adding special groundwater conservancy
89 restrictions to otherwise conventionally zoned properties. Uses consumptive of
90 groundwater quality resources are precluded or more generally regulated. Uses that are
91 not consumptive of groundwater quality resource are permitted. Specific limitations might
92 include limitations of water use, drainage, development density, septic use.
- 93 **No. 40:** Consider density limitations, building codes for farm structures, development
94 standards for farm activities.

95 **No. 230:** Place area wide limitation on number of acres where manure can be spread as
96 fertilizer. Require permit to spread manure as fertilizer. Allow market in permits. Allow
97 dairies to own permits which could be leased to other agricultural properties.
98 **No. 34:** Define conditional uses that can be allowed after assurance that groundwater
99 resources would not be damaged.
100 **No. 213:** Establish water use domains (zones) to apply water use constraints, or well
101 construction design constraints, for agricultural uses.
102 **No. 226:** Amend Yakima County Code 16C.09.070 to include excess fertilizer application
103 (over agronomic rate) to list of prohibited uses within critical aquifer recharge areas. *The*
104 *group discussed some changes to this alternative, but then decided to delete it.*
105 **No. 44:** Protect Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas.
106 **No. 35:** Consider a county ordinance concerning over application of manure.
107 **No. 28:** Enact County ordinances that would affect the problem grower.
108 **No. 39:** Establish a quota system through zoning regulations establishing how much
109 nitrogen could be applied (based on agronomic rates for individual crop types) within fixed
110 zones.
111 **No. 41:** Regulate crop mix to weight more toward nitrogen-light crops.
112 **No. 45:** Require bonding as prerequisite to permitting of livestock operations so as to
113 assure financial capability for clean up in the instance of bankruptcy or other economic
114 failure.
115

116 **The group agreed to revisit these alternatives at a later date. (Blue)**
117

118 **No. 214:** Develop and implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) for all producers
119 (those that apply manure and those that apply synthetic fertilizer that include annual soil
120 testing for phosphorus and nitrogen and which follow available guidance (i.e. Land Grant
121 University)) for developing appropriate land application rates for phosphorus and nitrogen.
122 These NMPs can identify site specific conservation practices that are, or will be,
123 implemented to minimize the transport of phosphorus or nitrogen to surface and ground
124 waters. NMPs that are adaptive -- adjusted based on annual soil tests, the types of crops
125 grown, and other site or field specific factors to allow producers to adjust their plans and
126 practices as new information becomes available. *A member wondered if this was a*
127 *voluntary or regulatory approach. Lucy Edmondson (EPA) stated that this would be a*
128 *regulatory approach.*
129 **No. 20:** Voluntary development and implementation of NMPs by operations not already
130 required to hold permits or a DNMP as an effective means of environmental protection.

- 131 **No. 219:** Integrate use of animal waste and synthetic fertilizer, balancing nutrient
132 application amounts so as to maximize crop production and full nitrogen uptake.
- 133 **No. 212:** Require irrigated agriculture nutrient management plans. Record the source and
134 type of fertilizer and number of acres fertilized with each.
- 135 **No. 220:** Track nutrients and their application regardless of the end user, including
136 commercial fertilizer.
- 137 **No. 221:** Keep track of synthetic fertilizer sales.
- 138 **No. 259:** Increase dedicated funding that requires Ecology to gather data, evaluate, and address the
139 environmental impact of intensive, industrial agriculture. *The group agreed to delete the phrases*
140 *"increase dedicated," and "that requires Ecology," and "intensive, industrial." They also agreed to*
141 *add the word "provide" at the beginning of the alternative so that it reads: "Provide funding to*
142 *gather data*
- 143 **No. 36:** Create county ordinance limiting total number or density of cows or dairies (lid).
- 144 **No. 37:** Adopt a LYC GWMA or county-wide CAFO ordinance.
- 145 **No. 180:** Treat manure supply in excess of that which can reasonably be applied as nutrient to
146 agricultural lands as a waste product. Apply waste management strategies including land disposal at
147 designated site, incineration, centralized waste-to-energy facility.
- 148 **No. 163:** Streamline current enforcement activities so as to improve customer service and
149 protocols, increase clarity of process, escalate enforcement for facilities not following management
150 practices, identify methods to discourage repeatedly unfounded complaints, and improve overall
151 transparency.
- 152
- 153 **IV. Committee Business:** No meeting summaries were approved.
- 154
- 155 **V. Public Comment:** A visitor stated that he had heard people claim over and over that dairies
156 didn't produce too much manure only to say later that they were shipping manure outside
157 of the GWMA. Another visitor indicated that he thought dairies had an incentive to over
158 apply manure on their own land because they're not paying for it.
- 159
- 160 The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.
- 161
- 162 **VI. Next Meeting:** September 7, 2017.
- 163
- 164 **VII. Next Steps:** None.
- 165
- 166 **VIII. Meeting Summary** approved by the GWAC on September 21, 2017.