

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 5, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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

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 5:02 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		✓

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)	✓	
Gary Bahr	WA Department of Agriculture	✓	
Perry Beale	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 **Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. Vern
 14 reviewed the agenda. A member asked about the availability of digital recordings of GWAC
 15 meetings. Jean Mendoza informed the group that the recordings were filmed on YCTV
 16 cameras, and were available for purchase at YCTV for \$5.00.

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 18 **II. USGS Well Monitoring Report:** Matt Bachmann briefed the group on the preliminary
 19 findings of the USGS nitrate monitoring wells. There were 160 wells that had been divided
 20 into four networks of 40, starting with Network 1 at the western end of the GWMA, and
 21 progressing sequentially to Network 4 at the eastern end. The wells were roughly evenly
 22 distributed and sampled every two months beginning in April. All were “shallow” wells,
 23 with the exception of three. Notable findings included:

- 24 • Average nitrate concentration of 6.05 mg/L.
- 25 • Median nitrate concentration of 4.42 mg/L.
- 26 • 19.8 percent of values exceed 10 mg/L, with ~1 percent being in the 40 mg/L range.

- 27
- Almost all of the high wells were in Networks 3 and 4, although they were not clustered together, and two of the 40-plus mg/L wells were in Network 2.
- 28
- Concentrations varied by season in predictable ways. The highest nitrates were in April, and the lowest in August. This was likely due to a combination of factors, such as changes in the growing season, temperature, and turbidity.
- 29
- 30
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33 Data gathered at these wells would be shared with the individual well owners upon request. Individual identities were not disclosed to outside parties. The next round of sampling is scheduled to take place this month, with another round in December.

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37 **III. Working Group Reports:** There were none. A member expressed concern that the Funding Working Group had not updated the GWAC on their activities. Vern recommended that members read the minutes from the Funding Group meetings, and that any GWAC member is welcome to attend. At present, no decisions had been made, since the list of alternatives had not been finalized, but there had been a lot of discussion about the successor agency that would take over and implement the GWMA’s recommendations. Once all the recommendations were finalized, they would need to be ranked according to priority.

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45 **IV. Alternative Land and Water Use Management Strategies for Reaching Program Goals and Objectives per WAC 173-100-100(4):**

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

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50 **No. 98:** Fund post-GWMA education and outreach through Conservation District. *The group added “to farmers” after the word “outreach.”*

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53 **No. 219:** Integrate use of animal waste and synthetic fertilizer, balancing nutrient application amounts so as to maximize crop production and full nitrogen uptake. *The group added “Make this a BMP” after the end of the sentence.*

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57 **Nos. 249 & 250:** *Jean’s original submissions on enforcing RCWs and WACs relating to Solid Waste Handling standards were broken down into the following categories:*

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60 **Solid Waste 1:** Ask the Yakima Health District to issue permits for agricultural composting operations, to appropriately inspect composting operations, and to enforce regulations that protect public health and the environment, as required by state rules and regulations.

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64 **Solid Waste 2:** Ask the Washington State Department of Ecology to review applications for,
65 and issue exemptions to agricultural composting operations in a manner that protects
66 public health and the environment, as required by state rules and regulations.

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68 **Solid Waste 4:** Ask the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide assistance to
69 local departments of health regarding the regulation of agricultural composting operations
70 as required by state rules and regulations.

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72 **Solid Waste 5:** Ask the Yakima Health District and Washington Department of Ecology to
73 inspect, monitor, and regulate stockpiled manures as required by state rules and
74 regulations.

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76 **The group either agreed these alternatives should be removed from the list, or were not**
77 **able to reach consensus on them. (Red)**

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79 **No. 46:** Measure the effects of GWAC program on Yakima County economics.

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81 **No. 180:** Treat manure supply in excess of that which can reasonably be applied as nutrient
82 to agricultural lands as a waste product. Apply waste management strategies including land
83 disposal at designated site, incineration, centralized waste-to-energy facility.

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85 **No. 212:** Require irrigated agriculture nutrient management plans. Record the source and
86 type of fertilizer and number of acres fertilized with each.

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88 **No. 214:** Develop and implement Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) for all producers
89 (those that apply manure and those that apply synthetic fertilizer that include annual soil
90 testing for phosphorus and nitrogen and which follow available guidance (i.e. Land Grant
91 University) for developing appropriate land application rates for phosphorus and nitrogen.
92 These NMPs can identify site specific conservation practices that are, or will be,
93 implemented to minimize the transport of phosphorus or nitrogen to surface and ground
94 waters. NMPs that are adaptive – adjusted based on annual soil test, the types of crops
95 grown, and other site or field specific factors to allow producers to adjust their plans and
96 practices as new information becomes available.

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98 **No. 220:** Track nutrients and their application regardless of the end user, including
99 commercial fertilizer.

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101 **No. 221:** Keep track of synthetic fertilizer sales.

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103 **No. 259:** Provide funding to gather data, evaluate, and address the environmental impact of
104 agriculture.

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106 **EPA Submission 1:** Require biannual pressure testing of underground pipes that transport
107 liquid manure – either with cameras or pressure tested, and require repairs if they are not
108 intact.

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110 **EPA Submission 2:** Consistent with the NRCS’ general recommendation, the use of lagoons
111 should be avoided in watersheds with drinking water aquifers. Any new or existing lagoons
112 in watersheds with drinking water aquifers should be equipped with engineered liners with
113 a flexible membrane liner (FML) and a leak detection system.

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115 **Solid Waste 3:** Ask the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct waste stream
116 analysis regarding agricultural composting operations as required by state rules and
117 regulations.

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119 **The group agreed to revisit these alternatives at the next GWAC meeting. (Blue)**

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121 **Nos. 257 & 258:** Relating to enforcing the Washington State Clean Air Rule. These
122 submissions will be rewritten in similar fashion to Nos. 249 & 250.

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124 **V. Public Comment:** A member of the public was concerned that the group was not operating
125 on a true consensus model.

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127 **VI. Committee Business:** The September 21, 2017 meeting summary was approved as
128 presented. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

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130 **VII. Next Meeting:** October 19, 2017.

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132 **VIII. Next Steps:** Alternatives related to enforcing the Washington State Clean Air Rule will be
133 discussed at the next GWAC meeting.