

Draft Notes
LYV-GWMA Implementation
Thursday, September 14, 2023
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teams Meeting

- 1:00-1:10: Introductions
- 1:10 – 1:40: Ryan Gross, EPA, Technical Assistance for Water Infrastructure (flyer and presentation attached)
- 1:40 – 2:30: Group Roundtable - Agency share on activities they are working on.
 - South Yakima Conservation District
Rodney - Irrigation conversion project in the lower valley. Will be working alongside NRCS.
 - Yakima County Public Services
David – we are updating the website and have added a pop-up interactive map when you enter the site. We are working to incorporate TetraTech's groundwater contour maps and other water quality data.
 - Yakima Health District
Jocelyn – the Health District is hosting a community meeting in October to share the results from their surveys and focus groups. They want to maintain community engagement in this work. Invitations will be sent out to determine what date will work best for our partners to attend. It is a good opportunity to hear what others are working on in the area. Lisa recommended we get people to sign up for well testing at this event. YHD will also be working on a framework for improving drinking water education and information to community members. This will be applied internally but may serve as a valuable template for future application within the GWMA.
 - Washington State Department of Agriculture
Gary Bahr – Trying to hire staff for two positions that will be working on the GWMA project. Kyrre is also working on this hiring process. This is ongoing so there will be more updates in our next meeting.
 - Washington State Department of Ecology
Melanie – Back on track with the story map, working with Emily and the WQ program. We are also consolidating our web pages and plan to be more purposeful with the content. We will include links to the Yakima County website so that Yakima County is the primary place for information. She is finishing up the QA process for the water quality data and hopes to be done soon. Ecology will share this with Yakima County once it is in EIM. For our Prosser project, we have added a part-time communications consultant and she is very excited to work with people down in the lower valley.

Damon Roberts – making an offer soon on the COEES position. Thank you, Jocelyn, for sitting on the interview panel. Hopefully we can get everyone some help here soon with continuing engagement here down in the lower valley. There is a meeting at Mabton tonight that I will be attending along with other agencies.

- Washington State Department of Health

Andy Cervantes – Also going to the Mabton meeting tonight. Mabton is using well #5 quite a bit. We are trying to figure out what was the ask, but we have made funding available, and they have received it from somewhere else. They need a new reservoir and are doing a lot, but it's just not very fast. I talked to the operator. He said there were some ties being made, but if they don't come up tonight, we will deal with them later.

The bottled water that is coming out of the Outlook area has more to do with the lawsuit with the five dairies, per the EPA order. Those are the people who are providing bottled water to the people involved in the lawsuit.

Sheryl – DOH is planning a legislative ask of a full-time project manager for the GWMA. I believe that Holly also wants to have a staff person working in collaboration with the Yakima Health District. The other update is that Holly Myers (DOH) was going to meet with some dairy reps. One of EPA's requests of DOH is to evaluate agribusinesses throughout the state that may function as a water system but through a variety of reasons were missed in the permitting process. DOH has developed a process to reach out to these businesses and to determine whether they are Group A water systems. Andy Cervantes has been exceptionally helpful in that process. This meeting has been postponed until we finish some policy/procedure issues.

The last communication received from EPA around our G2G EJ grant said the awards would be announced at the end of September. This is a 1,000,000 award to help with outreach and education around air and water quality issues in the LYV.

- 2:30 – 3:00: GWMA Communications

Sheryl will schedule a meeting with the folks identified in the Communications Plan to discuss if a single point of contact is appropriate for the GWMA and what products and frequency do we want the group to work on.

- The quarterly EPA meeting planned for September 7th was cancelled.
- Next meeting, Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1:00-3:00 p.m. via Teams. Agenda to come.
- Adjourn