

December 12, 2024

- 1:00-1:05: Introductions
  
- 1:05 – 1:50: Group Roundtable - Agencies Share on Activities They are Working on.
  - Washington State Department of Agriculture – Obadiah, continuing to inspect both CAFO and non-CAFO dairy facilities and just concluded a fall lagoon inspection, Kyrre – planning workshops for sharing scientific research and policy awareness on nitrate source work.

The successful outcome of the GWMA plan is to continue to invest in solutions with actions to reduce Nitrate. The governor's report is taking up lots of time.

Reporter from NYT interviewed Kyrre, putting nitrate issue into nationwide awareness including EPA legal actions. Kyrre expects it to be published soon, only state agency interviewed is from Ag. Much sacrifice and effort continue to go into addressing this issue and shows how government can support long term solutions. Reporter is likely to cut Kyrre's "disaster narrative".

Support from IC team for Kyrre, interviews are not easy, and the solutions take time just as the contamination and sources took time.

- Washington State Department of Ecology -

Melanie – also working on gov report, taking data from ambient monitoring project. Damon – working on report, identification of abandoned wells underway, group putting maps together to show priority areas. Early January they will reach out to well user that connected to municipal system. Eli – update from well group, they are excited to begin coordinating with community members with abandoned wells for next steps. Outreach update, event in Toppenish at a church. Resources available to sign up for well sampling were provided. Some participants were outside of GWMA, and some were inside. Good interaction and follow up communication. The last event for 2024, next Friday KDNA festive event, with materials available.

Heather – CAFO update – 2 permit apps turned in have gone through comment period. Next step is commenting response and SEPA concerns from comments. Ecology seeking AAG input on responses.

Emily T. recommends we proceed with the translation of documents with caution as it is very expensive. Perhaps a summary is more realistic than an entire translation of the Gov report. Translation should include a pathway for presentation (like Eli's suggestion for messenger). Think about the benefits and pathways for information.

- South Yakima Conservation District – Rodney and Savannah – Deep soil sampling completed this fall for 16 fields totaling over 300 acres. Irrigation efficiency projects are still underway. Working on Gov progress report. Savannah finished a new DNMP and is actively working on two more. The recruiting process is still underway for a Resource Conservation Technician position.
- Yakima County Public Services –

Lisa – WSAC presentation in Vancouver on 11/21/24 went well (Melanie, Andy, Lisa and Kyrre presented). Presentation focused as one integrated presentation between all partners. The new concept worked well. Melanie and Kyrre polished and perfected the presentation to be collaborative and with one-unified voice.

Post card mailouts going out in January (1000) for the remainder of all residences using individual and shared wells in the Yakima County GWMA area. With 6 months remaining on leg funding, there is lots to do. The bottled water contract is extended to allow longer services. Focus is keeping bottled water as interim, while RO units are installed. Concern over seeking long-term solutions to replace bottled water delivery. RO units continue to be available.

David is working on sustainability plan outline to share for next steps. Joe Stump (Utility Manager) is retiring. Joe has supported GWMA work and will be missed.

Commissioner Linde appreciated the GWMA partners on stage as partners at the WSAC presentation on GWMA.

- Yakima Health District – Kait Wolterstorff shared 684 requests for sampling, more details included in the monthly report up, 139 test results > 10 mg/L.

104 homes receiving bottled water.

Distributed over 4000 five-gallon water bottles in the GWMA areas. Jocelyn – finalized EPA EJ grant contracts, laying out first steps for launch of the grant. Working with CWU to set up an evaluation framework for education/outreach campaign. Message on general well water safety, overall holistic approach for community members to protect their wells by maintaining and protecting them from pollutant sources.

Holly asked if Dean Effler had reached out to YCPS or YHD regarding the spending of CDWP litigation funds. State fiscal cannot accept this funding. That message is clear and the recommendation to CDWP should be to reach out directly to nonprofits or seek other options for installing RO units.

Lisa – wouldn't it be better to have one service for this instead of multiple entities providing these services.

Jocelyn – has not spoken to CDWP but prefers to map out services to homes and identify and acknowledge the options.

- Washington State Department of Health – Rob, EJ grant kicks off, will share more at January IC meeting. Working on Gov report and quarterly EPA report.

Anchee participates in events and brings back information from community members. When we learn what the community wants, we should identify positive changes that can be made for outreach and direct communication.

Kyrre mentioned the Gov report can be used as a resource.

Holly suggested translating the report to be shared with the community members describing the work from GWMA partners.

Eli – supports translating the report. He believes we need a messenger to share the information. Messenger would explain and interpret the information.

Damon – panel format with partners provides a good resource for communities. It gives residents the opportunity to ask ?s and allows agencies to provide responses.

Andres Cervantes – supports communicating with residents in panel-format.

- Dairy Federation – Dave Taylor Annual meeting in Pasco - DOH presentation went well.

Dave hopes to have more discussion with leadership on the next steps on same farm exemption.

- 1:50 – 2:05: Coordination of R/O Units – any conversation with CDWP representatives will be from local entities regarding any partnerships or collaboration for spending litigation funds from dairy lawsuits.
- 2:05 – 2:30: EJ Listening Sessions with ELLA – Jocelyn – attended the meetings, looking for ways to improve outreach and messaging. A few questions came up in sessions related to nitrate contamination. Question came up about nitrate polluting livestock and plants. Jocelyn will reach out to DOH toxicologist.

Jocelyn will work with ELLA to create an opportunity to have a panel and listening session. Jocelyn shared with Ag what was heard at meetings and the opportunity to share more information.

ELLA is an entity that residents trust.

Commissioner Linde – Share facts and information carefully to reach the community members with the right information.

Kyrre - Facts must be focused on and we should keep clear lines for which team we work with, advocacy for politics or community education.

Damon – ELLA reached out to ECY to learn about what ECY does. ELLA supported the panel discussion for the City of Mabton. We can set guidelines for our collaboration with them.

Rob sat in on ELLA meeting with YHD, and members were interested in learning about GWMA.

Eli – it is important to utilize existing community groups that can help us to educate and spread information with residents that are impacted. Working with local groups provides a safe space for residents to learn.

- Working on governors EPA progress report
- Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 1:00-3:00