

The official GWMA Plan states on page ix:

The diversity of the committee members' interests often made for contentious discussions, but the members were committed to resolving the issues and continued to participate, and were usually respectful.

The Friends of Toppenish Creek have not felt respected during the past six years. We have endured a great deal of acrimony and, in our opinion, unfair treatment.

October 18, 2012 from the GWMA meeting summary:

Kevin Lindsey addressed the committee and asked that they take the EPA's report with a "grain of salt".

Mr. Lindsey works for the dairy industry. He lives and works in the Tri Cities.

November 15, 2012

Members of the GWAC who support the dairy industry ask to have Helen Reddout removed from the committee due to a notice of intent to sue from the Community Association for the Restoration of the Environment which she heads. There was no regulatory justification for removing her and she remained.

November 27, 2012

Don Young, alternate for the Yakima Farm Bureau resigns in protest.

Young argued that the committee is stacked against dairy owners because it includes too many representatives of environmental organizations and government regulatory agencies. (Yakima Herald Republic)

February 14, 2014

After Friends of Toppenish Creek advocates for Environmental Justice in the GWMA Work Plan Stuart Turner informs FOTC that:

You must understand that the base of EJ is simply not compatible with the stated Goals and Expectations the Legislature set forth when substantial sums of money were appropriated for this work.

March 14, 2014

Jean Mendoza from FOTC complains via e-mail to the GWAC and the media about lack of responsiveness from the Pacific Groundwater Group regarding questions about plans for monitoring wells.

Commissioner Elliott tells her:

We have agreed upon guidelines for this process and you have chosen to ignore them. If you are unable or unwilling to work within those guidelines, then I would ask you to consider whether or not you should continue to serve on the GWAC.

April 17, 2014

Phyllis Barney from the WA State Attorney General's office makes a presentation on Washington Water Law to the GWMA Regulatory Framework Group. FOTC asks whether we can invite an environmental attorney to the meeting. The Regulatory WG Chairman advises not in the interests of avoiding conflict. When the meeting begins an attorney for Darigold takes a seat at the table.

July 16, 2014

Landon Schilperoort from the South Yakima Conservation District posts a blog on the Yakima Herald Republic website in which he states:

This group "Friends of Toppenish Creek" Is one of the groups that is giving the GWMA in the lower valley a very hard time. These people want nothing more then to end agriculture in the yakima valley.

This is untrue. Mr. Schilperoort works for a publicly funded agency and lists those credentials in his blog. FOTC complains to no avail.

August 12, 2014

Mendoza from FOTC complains that the Data Work Group is not meeting regularly and her concerns about the Interim Final Groundwater Monitoring Plan are being ignored.

Kirk Cook from WSDA and the Chair of the Data Work Group comments to the GWMA leadership:

Really, I don't think we should be guided by what Jean wants or doesn't want.

August 20, 2014

Helen Reddout and CARE withdraw from the GWMA. She states:

CARE has not and will not be attending GWMA meetings. We feel it is a waste of our time and the taxpayer's money. GWMA is an extension of the procrastination we have faced over the years; allowing the pollution of our land, air and water to continue.

If, twenty years ago, the agencies sitting on this board had accepted their mandate to protect the environment and the people of the valley we would not be in the situation we face today. Each time the opportunity to correct the problem occurred agencies have caved into political pressure.

CARE sees the same things happening at the GWMA meetings and wishes to resign from the board.

Respectfully,

Helen Reddout

CARE President

September 24, 2014

The EPA presents a first report from the "dairy cluster". Environmental groups on the GWAC are not informed of the meeting.

October 24, 2014

Commissioner Elliott, chairman of the GWAC, describes GWAC member Jan Whitefoot's position as:

"Her solution is to just have every dairy moved out of the county," (YHR)

Whitefoot notes the prohibition in the GWMA Operating Guidelines against characterizing other members' positions. She asks for a retraction.

"It's absolutely not true. We're against industrial feedlots, not family farms or cows on grass," Whitefoot said. "He said that to marginalize us, so that we sound extreme and he sounds like the good guy." (YHR)

Commissioner Elliott refuses to retract his statement.

November 19, 2015

Steve George from the Yakima Farm Bureau testifies before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. (Attachment 83) FOTC complains that he spoke for the GWMA and is not authorized to do so.

Stuart Turner responds:

Steve George can decide for himself how to respond to your inaccurate and defamatory allegations. Here is what I intend to do; I am providing you notice that after turning the other cheek for over 4 years, for you, the big ride is over. Your false and defamatory statements are intentional and harmful to me personally, but especially to me in a professional business sense. I depend on my rock solid reputation as a straight shooter with strong professional ethics to attract and retain my many clients. I am the primary care giver to my disabled wife, who has a progressive and degenerative disease which requires, even with insurance, out of pocket expenses equivalent to about 1/3 of my net revenue. I am also primary care give to my 91 year old mother, who has had two tumors removed since January, weighs 86# and is suffering from the onset of dementia. My ability to work and provide for these important family members has been threatened by you for the last time. I will gracefully give you the opportunity at the GWAC meeting on Thursday to publically renounce your false statements about me, or I will provide you the opportunity to explain all of this to a Superior Court Judge and Jury. You have an important decision to make between now and Thursday.

October 7, 2017

FOTC states in a meeting of the GWAC that the South Yakima Conservation District has advised dairymen that it is acceptable to compost on bare ground.

Stuart Turner responds:

You have no credibility and zero objectivity on any issue relating to agriculture and animal ag in particular. It does not matter how much you read or what you cite. Your evil, deliberate LIE at the prior meeting summed up in your statement that SYCD "teaches farmers how to pollute" is a classic, recent example. However, your five year recidivist pattern of false, inflammatory statements, many of which are legally actionable, confirm your abject lack of respect for others, respect for the truth, objectivity, and ability to serve in any constructive capacity on this GWMA board, and I call here for your immediate resignation.

I am serving notice on you and the GWMA leadership your behavior has earned you the hook. Kindly take immediate leave of the GWAC by written notice.

The Friends of Toppenish Creek have submitted numerous analyses of GWMA data, including:

- Analysis of Data Gathered by Heritage University Students for the Lower Yakima Valley Ground Water Committee (Attachment 20)
- What will happen to the groundwater in the Lower Yakima Valley if we do nothing? (Attachment 21)
- Lower Yakima Valley Deep Soil Sampling Summary Analysis (Attachment 23)
- Analysis of Fields Planted in Triticale (Attachment 24)
- Analysis of Nitrate Pathways (Attachment 25)
- Costs Related to Elevated Nitrates in Groundwater (Attachment 26)
- Analysis of Domestic Wells – 2017 USGS Study (Attachment 28)
- Minority Opinion re *Comprehensive Nitrogen Loading Assessment for the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area – Scope of Work and Budget* (Attachment 39)
- Significance of Nitrogen Emissions and Atmospheric Deposition for the Lower Yakima Valley – A Briefing (Attachment 70)
- GWMA: Reasons to Reject the May 2018 Voting on Proposed GWMA Solutions – A Minority Report (Attachment 82)

With the exception of *Lower Yakima Valley Deep Soil Sampling Summary Analysis* none of these contributions have been placed in the GWMA library, even though the Minority Reports should have been posted according to the GWMA Operating Guidelines.