

# GWMA Regulatory Meeting Summary – December 16, 2014

Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

December 16,  
2014

## Regulatory Framework Working Group

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Develop and approve agenda for two study sessions to take place in January and February 2015.

### Working Group Members

Tom Eaton – Chair (Environmental Protection Agency), Andres Cervantes (Department of Health), Charlie McKinney (Department of Ecology), Chelsea Durfey (Turner and Co.), Dan DeGroot (Yakima Dairy Federation), Jason Sheehan (Yakima Dairy Federation), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District) Nick Peak (Environmental Protection Agency), Vern Redifer (Yakima County Public Services), Ginny Prest (AGR), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama Reservation), Larry Fendell (citizen) and Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau)

### Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: 1:00p.m. To 2:00p.m., Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Call Number: 509.574.2353 pin: 2353#

### Participants

Present: Charlie McKinney, Dan DeGroot, Jason Sheehan, Jean Mendoza, Jim Davenport, Jim Dyjak, Steve George and Vern Redifer

Via Phone: Tom Eaton (Chair) and Laurie Crowe

Absent: Andy Cervantes, Chelsea Durfey, Ginny Prest, Larry Fendell and Nick Peak

Other Attendees: Kelly Rae (Yakima County support staff)

### Key Discussion Points

#### **Welcome & Meeting Overview**

Jim Davenport welcomed the working group.

**Questions to be submitted to Presenters at Two Study Sessions.** These sessions are scheduled for January 14 and February 11, 2015 (regular dates of the Working Group meetings) and are open to the public.

Tom Eaton asked if the questions were going to be presented to all of the speakers as that would make for some very long meetings. Jim Davenport replied that not all of the presenters would be expected to answer every question. It was suggested that the presenters review and provide remarks prior to the Study Sessions and at the end of the

session, the public could ask questions. Charlie McKinney stated that the participants need enough time to get familiar with the questions and Jim D. responded that the document could be distributed to the speakers now and that if there were any edits, he'd send those out to them.

**ACTION:** Jim Davenport asked the group if there were any additions/edits to be made to the questions, to submit to him by Christmas.

Group discussed how much time each panel would take as well as public questions/remarks. It was suggested that there be more than two Study Sessions as each 4 hour block would not be enough time to cover the Panels and questions as scheduled on the Agenda.

Tom E. stated that he would get different EPA people to talk about drinking water and suggested maybe 15 minutes per panel. He commented that getting through to Panel 3 is ambitious. Vern agreed that time-wise it was and added that Panel 4 is Yakima County's Land Use and Approval Process which has to do with the Irr/AG and Livestock in the Valley. Tom suggested that Panel 4 be expanded and focused on land use and have Gordon with the Health Department move to Panel 2. Vern agreed with this.

Another member suggested that the speakers from out of town present first. Jim D. disagreed stating that the Sessions need to start at the top and then work down to regulatory structures and that's why it's organized in a descending pattern.

**ACTION:** Jim will revise the Agenda to divide the Study Sessions into three, four or perhaps five different meetings. The first Study Session will include Panels 1 and 2 with Vern Redifer presenting at Panel 1: Groundwater Management Areas Presentation to include addressing questions on whether the GWMA is mandatory and if the group produces or makes recommendations. This first Session could be the group's trial run to see if enough time is allotted.

A discussion about Section 319 Clean Water Act began. A member suggested that perhaps the GWMA could do a paper on this. Another member added that the paper could include input from other entities (N.C.R.S., Farm Service Agency, 319 People, etc.). Jim D. said that there could be a fifth Study Session added for funding. One of the members stated that some of the people he has spoken to think that money is the power mover for the group. Another member suggested combining the Funding and Regulatory Working Groups as California did.

A suggestion was made that perhaps an interpreter might be needed for the Study Sessions as there might be some in the audience that don't speak English.

**ACTION:** Jim Davenport will check into the availability of an interpreter for the Study Sessions.

A member asked if someone was going to be taking notes during the Study Sessions. Jim D. responded that the County administrative support would bring audio recording equipment

to the Sessions so that nothing was missed and then the admin would transcribe and distribute the minutes.

**Resources Requested**

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None at this time

**Recommendations for GWAC**

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None at this time

**Deliverables/Products Status**

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None at this time

**Proposed Next Steps**

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None at this time