

## **GWMA Implementation Committee Meeting Notes**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2022

**Attendees:** Cheryl Howe, Lisa Freund, Damon Roberts, Ron Cowin, Rodney Heit, David Haws, Holly Myers, Andres Cervantes, Gary Bahr, Shawn Magee, Caitlin McConkey (Ecology WQ Admin)

### **ROUNDTABLE UPDATES**

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#### **South Yakima Conservation – Rodney Heit**

Melanie sent the updated nitrate concentrations i am putting together outreach material to target producers in those areas for DSS. Working with Gary Bahr to get his teams input on the soil sampling QA QC and protocols used back in 2014-16 see what if any changes will be needed. The old SOW is located on the Yakima County GWMA website if anyone wants to look at it.

#### **Yakima Health Dist - Shawn Magee**

Working in partnership with DOH and DOE potable water delivery to folks within the GWMA affected with high nitrates - through end of 2022, making good progress. notifications going out next week.

Holly Myers -- working on a health assessment that is separate from the water delivery - public health and science is working on getting that moved forward.

#### **DOH – Holly Myers and Mallory Little**

Health Assessment summary from OEPHS - Currently using The Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network data for July through December 2021 for use in the health assessment. Working on the exposure assessment portion of the health assessment.

#### **Washington State Dept of Ag - Gary Bahr**

Meetings with policy team and others to assess the recommendations and discuss what sort of funding would we need to increase funding in the areas of GWAC.

Formulating concepts that would help move things further along this spring.

Working to support the dairy producers and various kinds of projects related to field trials etc. Education and training.

#### **Ecology - Damon Robert**

Melanie's Crew out sampling and doing field checks. Melanie is working on the letter to volunteers and plans on calling first.

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**Ron Cowin** - No updates

### **PROJECT PLANNING TOPIC**

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The group discussed the potential for obtaining a project planner to help with the implementation process. In general the group sees the value in the position, but feels more time needs to be spent identifying roles and responsibility. There was discussion on consulting this out, but mixed opinions on

the value of a consultant or someone in-house. Group agreed that the person in this role should be bilingual English/Spanish.

### **Recommendation Actions Sheet Damon Shared**

1. Complete
2. Complete
3. South Yakima Cons Dis -- Ongoing
4. Ongoing
5. Ongoing
6. Ongoing - Continuing with SYCD.
7. Ongoing
8. Ongoing - Long term component for infrastructure, with outreach to connect landowners. Long term well upgrade/improvement. Pilot program for potable water.
9. Ongoing - Years of data on the head gates and data on the drains.
10. Ongoing since recommendations were in place, with an increases since 2020 with additional resources.
11. Ongoing - NRSC update - Doing a lot of irrigation water management planning. Implementation hindered by budget during Covid.
12. Ongoing - Built in to the current assessment process for new systems. Next need for this is canvassing need for existing.
13. Deemed feasible, but needs a lot of resources. Soil health Initiative helps address this, soil moisture monitoring, irrigation scheduling, etc. Part of the task is to go back to WSU and get additional thoughts. SYCD expediting EQUIP funding for irrigation projects.
14. Ongoing – A large amount of information sent to producers. WSDA discussing internally over a 5-year period of time.

### **Action Items**

1. Prepare to discuss the remaining recommended actions at the next meeting (Group)
2. Work on defining the roles and responsibilities of the project position and share with the group prior to the next meeting. (Damon)