

Agenda

LYV-GWMA Implementation

Thursday, July 14, 2022

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Attendees:

Damon Roberts, Holly Myers, Rodney Heit, Gary Bahr, Andres Cervantes, David Haws, Sharyl Howe, LaDon Linde, Lisa Freund, Shawn Magee, 509-985-3115

➤ Welcome/Group Roundtable

- South Yakima Conservation District
- *Our pilot sampling project has started. Shifted gears – doing dairy production facilities, will pick up ag acres in the fall – did not get the locates done in time and land-owner decided to plant. So we will pick that up here in the fall. We hired a new ag resources technician. Will run some of the deep soil sampling once trained. Heavily involved in Ecologies CAFA(O) permit. Completed two projects in Yak valley – corn alfalfa to pivot irrigation. As well as a dairy facility that has suffered poor repair and management – new transfer station set up to help them get back on track. Using Salmon recovery for riparian plantings with cottonwoods. Installing exclusion fencing to help with the salmon habitat. Looking forward to having a new staff member on board.*
- Yakima County
- *Lisa – Submitted letter to EPA in response to their request re: GWMA and what we are doing. Sent letters to the city of Grandview, Sunnyside, Mabton, granger – inviting them to apply for ARPA funding, and reminding them that under GWMA planning that one of the recommendations is to extend water and sewer in their jurisdictions. We encouraged them to look at that and address it if they have urgent needs, either through ARPA funding or GWMA implementation. Bottom line, encourage cities within the GWMA to start looking at ways to address the shortfalls of the sewer and water and look at funding and available options to them.*
- Yakima Health District
- *Shawn Magee – We also got our letter submitted to the EPA by the deadline. Drinking water delivery program update: Mapping out the current subscriber route, overlay this map with a map that targets the higher nitrate levels – this will help us conduct a more targeted door-to-door outreach. Educating people on nitrate levels*

in the wells. Utilizing the nitrate testing strips to test people's drinking water. If they are above the level, we will recommend to them they utilize the drinking water service we will be providing to them. The 1:1 awareness is so important, especially to those that are more impacted by the nitrate levels. Shawn will share more data about the outreach plan as it is finalized.

- Washington State Department of Health
 - *Health Assessment – will update the group here soon on this. Contract to do the wellhead protection delineations*
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
 - *Gary Bahr – Working to set up site visits at the dairy farms. Trying to get an idea of the current knowledge from the dairy farmers on implementation of air quality strategies. Saw that the EPA approved the revisions to the WA state air quality plan. Damon offered to pull in Sanjay from Air Quality if we would like an update as a group.*
- Washington State Department of Ecology
 - Groundwater Sampling – Melanie Redding - [1:02 PM]*
 - Roberts, Damon (ECY)*
 - Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network: completed first year of quarterly sampling. The first 3 quarters are in EIM. Working on a story map with the central focus being the ambient groundwater monitoring network. Also including history of the GWMA, accomplishments, other groundwater studies, and continued work. I can share a draft at a future committee meeting.*
 - The groundwater monitoring is being included in Ecology's environmental initiatives.*
 - *General – Damon/Sage*
 - *Had a request from other region section managers wanting update on GWMA implementation. They want to learn from the experience overall and all that we have done. Damon will be reaching out to everyone to put something together to get on the PMT calendar. We also got our EPA letter in.*
 - *Plan to develop a community engagement/communication plan for the lower valley – there's an opportunity to educate the population on different things that they can do to help and/or build a better understanding of the issues.*

➤ Recommended Actions

40 – Need to assess what grants are available, pull in Ecology grant staff for a future meeting.

41 – Ongoing – very active with dairy operations

42 – Not being addressed at this time, flag for follow up

43 – (almost identical to #36)

44 – Ongoing research and need for funding

45 – Not currently being addressed, need to pull in the Ecology Solid Waste Management Program, flag for follow up.

46 – Funding needed

47 – Ongoing – hope to get a good chunk of this done this year. Ecology will want to reach out through the planning/implementing process as well.48

49 – Flag for follow up

50 – Flag for follow up

51 – Ongoing

➤ Implementation Schedule

Have something by the end of 2022 if possible that gives us a more detailed implementation. Reference: Certification Letter found on GWMA site. **Have Damon clarify flexibility regarding the schedule

- Put a deadline on the items
- Cross reference with the document on the GWMA site (the official approved one)
- GWMA Volume II – appendices (starting page 220) Link here: <https://www.yakimacounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/22175/GWMA-Volumell-Appendices-July2019>

➤ Project Manager Position – Continue searching alternatives and funding.

Meeting concluded -