

GWMA Regulatory Meeting Summary – November 12, 2014

Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

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2014

Regulatory Framework Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Develop and approve questions that Vern Redifer, Tom Eaton and Jim Davenport created 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 2:33p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Call Number: 509.574.2353 pin: 2353#

Participants

Present: Andy Cervantes, Jason Sheehan, Jean Mendoza, Jim Davenport, Dan DeGroot, Jim Dyjak, Larry Fendell, Steve George and Vern Redifer

Via Phone: Tom Eaton (Chair), and Ginny Prest

Absent: Chelsea Durfey, Laurie Crowe, Charlie McKinney and Nick Peak

Other Attendees: Kelly Rae (Yakima County support staff)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Jim Davenport welcomed the working group. He passed around a group member list that Lisa Freund had compiled so that the working group could add to or edit. Jim also let the group know that a member was recording the meeting.

Chair Tom Eaton requested Jim to conduct the meeting. Tom wants Jim to facilitate all the Regulatory Framework working group meetings in the future as Tom is a part of the EPA and then he can participate as a working group member.

A question arose as to how one becomes a member of the group. Jim answered that any GWAC member, or alternate member, who attends the meetings can be a member of the

work group. Any person is welcome to attend the work group meeting, as the meetings are open to the public. A group member asked that this be put in writing.

Discussion on BMPs. Conversation took place regarding how regulators work. If there is change needed, would it be policy or change? A suggestion was made that the group consult with WSU (Dr. Troy Peters).

Yakama Reservation. A recommendation was made to get the Nation involved and/or get their input as to what they are doing as the aquifer extends under the reservation boundary. It was noted that the Nation is on a similar process to the GWMA, and was provided a startup grant by EPA. EPA committed to meet with the Nation in the next two months to get a status report of their efforts.

Discussion on 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. It was suggested that these sessions would start with the RCIM at the first meeting and then the AG/CAFO at the second. Department of Health stated that they would be present at the study session with RCIM.

A four-page list of questions that Vern, Tom and Jim compiled for the future Study Sessions was discussed. The group was tasked with striking and/or editing questions. Jim asked that they return feedback/edits to him by the end of this week (November 14th).

ACTION: Jim will revise questions taking into account comments made at this meeting, with numbers, and email the questions out so that the working group can edit with reference to particular question.

A member would like to see the end result of the questions and wondered if we should allow public input. Another member suggested that we move the study sessions back a month so the group could go over the questions. It was also suggested that perhaps the study sessions would be moved back if the agencies cannot commit. It was decided that the study sessions would be scheduled for January 14 and February 11, 2015.

A group member asked if we were going to notify the GWMA on the work being done. The answer was "yes."

It was noted that the charge for this working group is to determine which programs work well and which need improvement.

Jim suggested that the work group meet again on Tuesday, December 16th from 2p.m. to 4p.m. to go over the questions again prior to the study sessions. He also stated that he will assume the responsibility of lining up the representatives of the agencies for the study sessions. The next meeting was confirmed for this date/time.

Resources Requested

None at this time

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time

Deliverables/Products Status

None at this time

Proposed Next Steps

Jim Davenport will distribute amended list of questions and will begin contacting agencies for January workshop (i.e. Department of Health, County Departments, Cities, etc.). Work group will meet next on December 16, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.