

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

Discussion of data sources and remaining Work Plan Items

Working Group Members

Charlie McKinney, Chair (Department of Ecology), Kirk Cook (Department of Agriculture), Elizabeth Sanchey (Yakama Nation), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Sue Wedam (LV Community Rep.), Patricia Newhouse (Citizen), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.), Jean Mendoza (Friends of Toppenish Creek), Jim Dyjak (Concerned Citizens of the Yakama reservation)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Radio KDNA, 121 Sunnyside Ave, Granger WA 98932

When: Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 5:00-6:30 pm

Call: (509) 574-2353 – Pin #2353

Participants

Charlie McKinney, Sue Wedam, Kirk Cook, Jean Mendoza, Jim Dyjak, Jason Sheehan, Laurie Crowe, Larry Fendell, Ginny Prest, Jim Davenport and Vern Redifer

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview:

Charlie McKinney welcomed the group and summarized the primary task for the meeting: in light of a change in plans by the dairies under the Agreed Order in terms of lagoon assessment, discuss options for the Work Group in obtaining lagoon leakage information. Also, discuss potential approaches for information on pen and storage areas.

Action follow-up from last committee meeting:

Charlie again contacted Eric Winiacki (EPA) about obtaining data on manure lagoons associated with the dairy cluster in the Lower Yakima Valley. The dairies were required to submit Lagoon Assessment Plans and this data was going to be available to the Work Group. However, Mr. Winiacki reported that the dairies have decided to line all of the lagoons and forgo the assessment step. Therefore, this will not be a source of data for the group.

The group discussed an annotated literature review on manure lagoons that a group member had provided at a previous meeting. It was suggested that a member to go back through the list and identify relevant articles. A couple of other members suggested that we utilize work done as part of the U.C. Davis Nitrate Study. A member suggested we talk directly to scientist involved in the study and that she has had conversations with them previously. Charlie agreed to pull up the several studies on lagoons that Ecology has done as a source of local data. Laurie Crowe will see what information sources she has access to at SYCD.

The need to analyze or estimate the nitrate contribution of pens and manure/compost storage areas was also discussed. Again, the U.C. Davis study was suggested as potential guidance on how to go about obtaining this.

Budget Discussion:

The main remaining potential nitrate sources that need to be addressed per the 2014 Task List is manure lagoons and corrals, pens, and manure storage. The group may ultimately need work done by a consultant however it was agreed that first the group would explore information and data sources to better define the approach and potential needs.

Resources Requested

None at this time. Budget requests may ultimately be submitted.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.

Deliverables/Products Status

Working on developing strategies for assessing lagoons as a nitrate source and for pen and manure storage areas. Budget items for this work and lagoon data interpretation will be submitted.

Proposed Next Steps

Evaluate member's literature review, the U.C Davis nitrate study, lagoon studies done by Ecology, data sources from SYCD, and other sources that come to light to begin formulating the Work Group's plan to address potential sources of nitrate.