

Livestock/CAFO Working Group

Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

2014 Task List Items

Working Group Members

Charlie McKinney, Chair (Department of Ecology), Kirk Cook (Department of Agriculture), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Helen Reddout (CARE), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jim Newhouse (South Yakima Conservation District), Laurie Crowe (South Yakima Conservation District), Patricia Newhouse (Citizen), Steve George (Yakima County Farm Bureau), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co., Inc.)

Meetings/Calls Dates

Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2014 3:00-3:30 pm

Conference Call: 360.407.3780, PIN-766639#

Participants

Charlie McKinney (Ecology), Steve George (Farm Bureau), Jason Sheehan (Dairy Federation), Jean Mendoza (FOTC), Laurie Crowe (SYCD), and Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County Staff Support)

Key Discussion Points

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Charlie McKinney welcomed the group and presented an overview of the agenda. This consisted of outlining current status in the 2014 Task List.

Action follow-up from last committee meeting:

Charlie mentioned that he talked with Tom Eaton and Eric Winiecki regarding EPA findings associated with the dairy cluster in the Lower Yakima Valley. It was noted that at least 30 lagoons and settling ponds were covered by the project, and that the Livestock/CAFO committee is still interested in obtaining the data from the project. The lagoons and settling ponds are believed to portray a wide range of ages and construction designs. He noted that Tom Eaton sent an email showing that EPA had updated their Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater webpage with new data reports, which are expected to be followed up with additional reports as data gathering continues. Some reports include a Field Application Management Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for groundwater monitoring, and Lagoon Assessment Plans. Charlie believes that the lagoon assessment report would be very beneficial to the Livestock/CAFO working group. Charlie mentioned that since the data is being made public on the website, there shouldn't be any issue for the committee to use the data. Charlie stated that if there is any information that needs to be withheld, EPA will let the committee know.

ACTION: Charlie M. to forward EPA email and/or website URL to the committee.

2014 Task List:

Charlie recapped the main nitrate sources that need to be addressed per the 2014 Task List which included field application of manure, corrals and pens, and manure storage and lagoon seepage, and public outreach. Charlie explained that the Deep Soil Sampling Plan should cover field application of manure.

Regarding livestock corrals and pens, there was some discussion about how much participation or volunteer activity will be experienced. A few participants stated that they doubted any dairy operator would consider volunteering for this program due to the situation with the dairy cluster and the EPA, and the ongoing litigation that is occurring at the moment. These participants felt that the group will ultimately resort to researching literature on this subject and applying it to the LYV GWMA. The Chair felt that it would be beneficial to try and recruit volunteers, by combining this scope of work with the Deep Soil Sampling Plan. As a plan B, the committee would entertain exploring any other sources of data available with the consultants if volunteer participation is not adequate. A cost would need to be identified for feasibility.

ACTION: Charlie M. to pursue corral and pen sampling strategy with the County and get back to the group with findings.

Resources Requested

None at this time.

Recommendations for GWAC

None at this time.

Deliverables/Products Status

Working on developing strategy for livestock corral and pen area potential sources

Proposed Next Steps

Complete milestones from tasks identified during this meeting

Discuss corral and pen sampling strategy with Yakima County

Forward EPA website to committee members