

## Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Municipal (RCIM) Working Group

### Charge from Groundwater Management Area Advisory Committee

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Budget for upcoming or proposed RCIM tasks or activities as well as a justification on how proposed tasks or activities promote progress of the GWMA process.

### Working Group Members

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Robert Farrell – Chair (Port of Sunnyside), Dr. Kefy Desta (WSU), Elizabeth Sanchez (Yakama Nation), Gordon Kelly (Yakima Health District), Jan Whitefoot (Concerned Citizens of Yakama Reservation), John Van Wingerden (Port of Sunnyside), Stuart Turner (Turner & Co), Tom Ring (Yakama Nation), Kathleen Rogers (Citizen), Sanjay Barik (Ecology), Dan DeGroot (Yakima Dairy Federation), Donald Gatchalian (Yakima County)

### Meetings/Calls Dates

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Where: KDNA Granger Conference Room – 121 Sunnyside Avenue, Granger, Washington

When: 2:00pm – 4:00pm Wednesday July 9, 2014

Call: (509) 574-2353 - PIN# 2353

### Participants

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Robert Farrell (Chair), Gordon Kelly, Dan DeGroot, Sanjay Barik, Jim Davenport, Kathleen Rogers, Lisa Freund (by telephone), and Troy Ross-Havens (Yakima County staff support)

### Key Discussion Points

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#### Welcome and Meeting Overview

The Chair of the working group welcomed the members and provided a brief overview of the agenda, which was focused on following up with last month's meeting to provide budget and justification for proposed RCIM tasks or programs.

#### Agenda:

- 1. Abandoned/Improperly Decommissioned Wells Identification Program:  
Justification and Budget**

Gordon began by reporting findings regarding well decommissioning costs. He reported a loose quote for a groundwater well with a six-inch casing and 100-ft deep, with little complication would cost roughly \$1,000.00. This would essentially cover the mobilization fee as well as time to extract casing and pressure grout. Complications or difficult site conditions

would require more time which would add to the cost. Bob reported his findings on decommissioning an abandoned well, which was about \$5,000.00 for a 200-ft deep well. The group identified the need for two phases of an abandoned well decommissioning program; phase 1 would include identification and characterization of reported abandoned wells, while Phase 2 would require physically decommissioning abandoned/improperly constructed wells. Funding was discussed on various levels from a tax on business commodities such as fertilizers, to going to the legislature for clean-up funds. It was suggested that Ecology could make a case for funding out of the centennial clean water fund, or perhaps begin the program with grant funding and then move towards a combination of a grant and low rate loan options. The group reached consensus that hot spots or areas with elevated nitrates should be focused on in a way that would gain trust amongst public and private parties.

The group discussed the importance of including both funding and liability-free elements to the program to encourage abandoned/improperly decommissioned well reports. Jim challenged the working group members to begin thinking about how liability associated with reporting could be minimized or eliminated, as this would require some thought. One suggestion was to research other GWMA's and if they encountered the same problem and how it was averted. It was also noted that abandon wells should be looked at as pollution pathways and not pollution sources.

Regarding the budget, the group determined that the Phase 1 or Identification and Characterization step would require approximately \$50,000 in startup costs for the first year and \$100,000 for the second year or thereafter.

## **2. Nitrate Source Pollution Referral Line: Justification and Budget**

The group agreed that the EPO would be the best work group to implement the referral line because of the wide range of target audiences the resource line would serve. They agreed EPO's budget proposal should include one FTE to staff the referral line; this position would support the GWAC and all working groups.

Jim noted that the RCIM should identify and submit a list of RCIM-specific questions and answers ("the fields") to the EPO to include in the resource directory. The RCIM will supply its technical information and resources; the EPO will incorporate this information into the directory, along with information submitted from the other working groups.

The RCIM recommended that EPO create a budget line item to launch the referral line for the RCIM. \$10,000 would be allocated from RCIM for the referral line; the other working groups would allocate a similar amount to fully fund the position.

## **Resources Requested**

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None at this time

## **Recommendations for GWAC**

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- Consider pursuing abandoned wells program
- Consider pursuing referral line program

## **Deliverables/Products Status**

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- Budget and Justification on schedule for August deadline.

## **Proposed Next Steps**

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- Compile typical abandoned well and nitrate pollution questions and answers for the resource directory and submit the list to the EPO.
- Compile abandoned well and nitrate pollution information fact sheets, best management practices, agencies/departments suitable for the referral line and submit the information to the EPO.