

**Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program  
VSP Work Group meeting  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
MEETING NOTES**

**Summary: Follow-up actions**

Item	Follow-up
Outreach for new biennium	Discuss at next meeting (first meeting within the new biennium)

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. This was a call-in meeting and no physical presence occurred (Governor’s coronavirus requirements). An online meeting platform was used.

**Public Comment**

No member of the public was online to offer comment.

**Main Topics**

*Definition of new agriculture for VSP:* Bill Eller from the SCC presented this topic. He reviewed a powerpoint presentation that outlined the issue, which is how to treat new agriculture installed after the VSP plan is put in place. The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee has adopted a Policy Advisory on this topic<sup>1</sup>. Questions and comments included:

- This is land that was not previously used for agriculture; whether the land is zoned for agriculture does not matter
- It is just for agricultural activities
- The definition of agricultural activities is the same as in the Shoreline Management Act
- The Policy Advisory contains a “decision tree” that can help decide what is new agriculture
- VSP workgroups should engage with their planning department to be sure there is a common understanding
- SCC will be doing more outreach on this
- If an existing parcel, designated for commercial agriculture and ag is onsite, what is the date to use when adding new agriculture?
  - No date is specified, SCC wants to keep that open; if situations are encountered that do not fit let the SCC staff know

*General project updates:* Mike ran through updates for a set of projects:

- Entiat-Colockum: technical memos are nearly done.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5faf8a950cdaa224e61edad9/608c27f477038f3e1eb78b04\\_VSP%20SAC%20PA%2006-21%20VSP%20and%20New%20Ag.Final.April%202021.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5faf8a950cdaa224e61edad9/608c27f477038f3e1eb78b04_VSP%20SAC%20PA%2006-21%20VSP%20and%20New%20Ag.Final.April%202021.pdf)

- Lower Icicle, Beaver Creek, Mission Creek, Plain area: interest is being assessed for all these and staff is working with local ag producers.
- Mailers were sent out this year and had 40 responses, primarily in southern part of county. Vicki noted this is encouraging.

*Riparian imagery analysis update:* Lisa showed a powerpoint presentation. She focused on three topics: imagery update and intersect results; the upcoming two-year report due in August; and thoughts about the next 5-year report due in 3 years (which will mark 10 years since the Chelan VSP was started in 2014). The tentative results of the imagery analysis shows that changes in agricultural use are within the management threshold of 5% so no action is needed. Hannah has done some ground truthing in the Entiat watershed (done) and the Wenatchee (underway).

Comments and questions:

- Britt noted that some “loss” might be just a change in vegetative cover due to different crops or other conversion.
- Lisa said this is just an in-process summary, we are only at two out of four steps for conducting this.
- Graham thinks that Ken Pierce with DFW has provided updated information to Core GIS.
- Mike noted that the commissioners are having early conversations regarding agricultural zoning with an eye to thinking about conversions; he will keep the workgroup informed
- Preliminary two-year report will have draft done by end of June and will share with workgroup

Lisa shared some thoughts about potential areas of focus for a ten-year review (next five-year report). The SCC will be moving to a cloud-based reporting system. The report will be due in July 2024; we will have 7 years of implementation in Chelan County. She reviewed potential contents.

*Outreach:* Mike thinks this is a good topic for the next meeting. We can discuss what we will be able to do in the fall, with the potential for lifting of many covid-19 restrictions.

*Next meeting date: Tuesday August 3 from 1:00 to 3:00*

**Wrap-up and Adjourn:**

- Today is Neil’s last time as facilitator for the workgroup; he is retiring at end of June. He will participate in a staff-level meeting to discuss how to address new facilitation and staffing needs (if the meeting is before June 25!)
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

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**Attendees:**

Neil Aaland, Facilitator  
 Britt Dudek, Chair  
 Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting  
 Ranie Haas, Tree Fruit Association  
 Mike Kaputa, Chelan County

Bill Eller, SCC  
 Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau  
 Graham Simon, WDFW  
 Amanda Barg, WDFW