

**Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:00 am – 10:00 am
MEETING NOTES**

Summary: Follow-up actions

Item	Follow-up
Add additional meeting in late April/early May	Neil and Hannah send out proposed times
Fact sheet and survey updates	Berk Consulting can assist Hannah with this

The meeting began at 9:05 a.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 present to offer comment.

Updates

Status of VSP Funding Request for 2021-2023 Biennium: Neil noted that the request from the SCC of \$8,410,000 was included in the Governor’s budget as released in December. Ron Shults says he has heard positive feedback in his meetings on the hill. Next step is to see if it is included in the House and Senate budgets. Those should be released later in March.

Current Projects: Hannah reviewed several projects. Memos for the Colockum and Entiat projects discussed at the last meeting are underway; should be out within the next two months. There are no new projects currently needing workgroup approval. She would like to schedule an additional workgroup meeting in late April/early May in case there are last minute projects to review. Lisa said she spoke with Matt at core GIS and they have time to work on imagery update. Hannah and Neil will confer on sending out a poll to decide on a date for the next meeting.

Other updates:

- Irrigation efficiencies project discussed in December still looks promising.
- The Shelton Tree Farm project discussed in December has interest from the state, thinks it is a competitive project.
- CCNRD applied for FEMA funding for design and assessments for the Pittsinger Farm in Entiat is applying for FEMA fund; staff time for application development can be match, and there might be an opportunity for VSP involvement down the road.
- Department of Agriculture monitoring plan has a new approach, will get more information on that
- Hannah will send Neil links on the SCC monitoring 101 webinar [Note: link is <https://www.scc.wa.gov/vsp/additional-resources>]

Outreach

Hannah has looked over the last spreadsheet, which has a lot of suggestions. Still a lot of uncertainty due to Covid-19. Neil suggested that, with the limitations posed by Covid-19, we work on planning for outreach that will occur once the state starts opening up as people are vaccinated. He thought this seems like a better use of effort since not a lot can happen till then. There was general agreement for this approach.

Mike asked about the work being done by State Department of Agriculture. They are doing a water quality monitoring effort around pesticides. Initial focus is on the area around Cashmere. Also offering some funding to upgrade sprayers.

Lisa said Berk can help with fact sheet updates and survey updates.

Graham asked about the Pittsinger Farm project. Hannah said it is an area of severe erosion resulting in debris flows and accumulation.

Lisa said there is no new survey information since the last time we collected information.

Watershed Benchmarks and Monitoring: Britt asked for a high-level discussion of this. The Douglas County VSP workgroup just submitted their 5-year report. He thinks it is important to look at the benchmarks and what they are telling us out on the landscape. It is good to do this at regular intervals. Lisa said the workplan includes a list of data sources. We can review this and see if it is still accurate. Also, at the last meeting we discussed that the state tool is available (for inputting the monitoring report information). We could use this to help identify where we need to collect more information. This could be brought back at the next meeting in late April.

Britt noted the Douglas 5-year plan is 1,003 pages long.

Levi Keesecker from the SCC appreciates this conversation. The Technical Panel is nudging groups to tie monitoring to Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Next steps: Send out poll for added meeting in late April/early May

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m.

Attendees:

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

Levi Keesecker, SCC
Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
Hannah Pygott, Chelan County
Seth Shifflett
Graham Simon, WDFW

