

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Advisory Committee meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. Facilitator Neil Aaland reviewed the agenda and asked each participant to introduce themselves. Neil spent a few minutes to review the Conservation Commission workshops on moving from planning to implementation. The focus for the first half of the meeting was still aimed at those workgroups who have not yet received approval of the plan from the Conservation Commission. There were a few comments in the latter half that were helpful for those implementing a plan. There were also some training notes on billing and other financial matters for contract administrators.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to offer comment.

Review/summary of approved VSP Work Plan

Lisa reviewed her powerpoint presentation summarizing the plan. Questions and comments during that review:

- Chelan/Douglas Farm Bureau can help with outreach
- Graham noted that outreach to cattle growers would help, even though they're a small component of agriculture in Chelan County
- Britt thinks we can use some Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in the media to reach out
- Britt wanted to make sure there is an administrator

Lisa walked through the key elements

- Participation
 - Later workplans were asked to do percentages of owners as measures; Chelan was not asked to do this by the Technical Panel (they started requesting this of later workplans)
 - Chelan has the flexibility to also do that and make that work
 - Mike Kaputa thinks it makes sense to follow other workplans with that
 - NRCS might help, Mike Cushman will connect with them
- Tracking tool was developed to capture work in the field
 - Discussion about improvements not related to agriculture – probably don't count but other improvements might help
 - Important to know the condition of the resource
 - How are we tracking negative impacts?
 - Imagery, other reports we find as a start
- Adaptive Management matrix – this describes what information/events triggers additional investigation
- Monitoring timelines – discussion about information required for biennial vs 5-year reports

- Task and budget – Lisa had draft a proposed budget for the workplan. It estimates \$40,000 for calendar year 2017, \$100,000 for calendar year 2018, and a total of \$1.3 million for later years
- Change detection: WDFW will provide this imagery in a couple of weeks. This will help establish a baseline. Lisa showed a slide from Whatcom County imagery, to illustrate what it can look like. It can be at a detailed level, but there are privacy concerns. Might want to produce some “guiding principles” for its use, like Yakima County’s workplan (Lisa and Neil will get a copy of those to Mike Kaputa and Britt). Propose to focus it at the watershed scale, in the area of intersect between critical areas and agriculture. We’ll be able to get this every couple of years.
- Biennial report outline – Lisa showed this to the group. Concern that there is not enough funding for outreach. Will be based on available funding.
- Five-year outline - Lisa briefly reviewed.

Discuss implementation actions/next steps

We discussed prioritization of actions. The workgroup wondered if there is a way to identify how many acres and how many producers at the watershed level, without having to talk with every producer. People thought something might be available from Global Gap, even though that is proprietary. Britt noted that landowners and land managers are not always the same, which complicates the matter. He will look into contacting packing houses to see the best way to get this information.

Workgroup members were asked to email Neil and Lisa with their reaction to the biennial and five-year report outlines. We discussed membership of the workgroup. Mike Kaputa thought it would be good to have a pool of growers to draw on, to avoid going to the well too often. Meeting frequency will be set based on the specific needs. Might be quarterly, might be bi-monthly.

Other comments: Mike Cushman thinks we still need to know the baseline, both from, 2011 and what has changed since then. Mike Kaputa noted that participation and riparian areas are top priorities. Lisa will try to get some information on baseline for the January meeting. Neil suggested that the next meeting in January be 3 hours. He will send around a Doodle poll for that meeting.

Next Steps

1. Neil will send around Doodle poll for January meeting – 3 hours
2. Britt will contact packing house to see about best way to getting information on producers at watershed level
3. Lisa will get information on baseline for January meeting
4. Lisa and Neil will get copy of Yakima guiding principles on imagery to Mike Kaputa and Britt for their review
5. Mike Cushman will contact NRCS to see if they can help with outreach

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW
Jim Bartelme, Supervisor, CCD
Mike Cushman, Cascadia Cons. District
Britt Dudek, CDFB
Graham Simon, WDFW
Ranie Haas, WSTFA
James Wiggs

Other attendees;

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County
Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
Hillary Heard, Chelan County
Erin McKay, Chelan County