

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Advisory Committee meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
FINAL MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. Neil Aaland and Lisa Grueter arrived at 1:45.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to offer comment.

Update on Conservation Commission training: Hillary attended the December training in Moses Lake. It focused on implementation issues.

Outreach

Task Order with CCD: The task order is in place. It provides the CCD with \$20,000 to do several specific tasks. They have started the data compilation (data going into SurveyMonkey).

List of organizations to provide outreach to; outreach monitoring goal: Will be discussed in next agenda item.

Outreach: Neil and Lisa provided an overview. Lisa prepared an outreach document that pulls together information from several different documents. We started reviewing each page of the document; discussion as follows:

Objectives and Guiding Principles: Several amendments proposed to objectives from the workplan, some because they address pre-adoption tasks and some are clarifications/updates.

Plan benchmarks and target: Lisa explained the idea of a benchmark and target for outreach; this has been required of other VSP workplans but Chelan was the first workplan approved and Technical Panel hadn't coalesced around that requirement yet. There were questions about the table in exhibit one, the size of parcels. Mike Kaputa wonders about the reason for decline in exhibit 2 – orchards.

By June 30, 2019: This is about actions during the next six months. Attendees generally liked the focus of these actions. Carmen noted that she is seeing the most impact on shrub-steppe conversions and wants to keep an eye on that.

Lisa suggested that the workgroup can discuss the next time period (next two years) in June. There was some discussion about working to engage the tribes. We've tried to do that in the past. We might consider doing an annual summit that includes tribes, as well as others.

Mike Kaputa suggested seeking additional grower/producer participation. He's wondering about asking each county commissioner to appoint two members, for a two year commitment. Workgroup members liked that idea.

The workgroup reviewed “Activities and Roles” on page 5. CCD has a deadline of this Friday for the newsletter article. Mike Cushman said they put tog this together. The County will update the website by the end of the month.

We started looking at exhibit 3, matrix of roles and activities. At top of page 3, Neil asked about the awareness item – are we targeting the general public or growers? The sense of the workgroup is that we’re looking at growers, to be sure they know about the VSP workplan. They are the key target group for our outreach.

The workgroup decided to delete the farm tour item, as it is aimed more at the public. We’re going to add in to the list talking with Stemilt, other similar entities to build awareness of VSP.

Vicki suggested inviting growers to a farm that has some practices installed. This replaces the farm tour item. Mike Kaputa thinks we should link this with the “annual summit” idea, focus it on the critical area piece. This can be considered for fall 2019.

At the top of page 7, it was suggested we ignore for now the “2019-2021 biennium” item. For the timeline, need to edit the January items – farm bureau newsletter. Carmen noted that WDFW has a private lands biologist program, that will work with private landowners to help implement VSP. She will send Neil a link. [Note: After follow-up discussion, Neil and Carmen concluded this program is not a good fit with VSP. WDFW staff can provide this information upon request.]

The workgroup is comfortable with this document as edited today.

Cost share projects: The SCC was clear they did not want a focus on cost shares for this biennium. Rather, they want work groups to focus on process. Lisa reviewed the Benton County example of how they would distribute dollars. She posed three questions for workgroup discussion, on page 9. Comments included:

- Consider whether Americorps is available (half is paid for by other government funds)
- Irrigation efficiencies as an item for funding has been raised by Jim Bartelme

Lisa will make changes and bring this back.

Other updates:

CoreGIS work: We looked at the December 17 iteration. Graham asked if new imagery will be needed every 1-2 years; Lisa said yes. She noted the overall budget was \$16,000; this will be less in future iterations. Gain/loss should be done every two years.

Meetings: We will meet monthly through June. Neil will confer with staff and propose a regular day of the month.

Field Guide: Neil noted that we’ve discussed this at several meetings. Please provide any additional edits/corrections to him by Monday, January 14. After that, we’ll make any changes and it will be final. [Note: no comments received so this will be finalized]

Next meeting we'll want to discuss the Commissioner appointing ag members, and Mike Kaputa wants to have Britt re-appointed again as Chair.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- Britt Dudek, CDFB
- Vicki Malloy
- Mike Cushman, CCD
- Neil Aaland, Facilitator
- Mike Kaputa, Chelan County
- Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
- Hillary Heard, Chelan County
- Ranie Haas, WA State Tree Fruit Association
- Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW
- Graham Simon, WDFW