

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, June 25, 2019
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made around the room. Rod Anderson is joining as a workgroup member.

Public Comment

Rod Anderson was in attendance to consider whether he would join the workgroup as an agricultural member. No other member of the public was present.

Administrative items

Prepare for afternoon briefing of Chelan County Commissioners: Lisa showed the powerpoint presentation prepared for the briefing. Mike Kaputa noted the change mapping is key. Some discussion about the mapping. It's good to have the numbers for today, particularly number of acres of net loss. For outreach, Mike Cushman asked to add the Entiat planning unit – he has given some briefings to that group. We divided up the slides, so we'll be sharing the presentation load for today.

The group discussed the new agricultural members. Mike Kaputa had a list of names including:

- Britt
- Vicki
- Darryl Harndon
- Wayne Reyman
- Rod Anderson
- Seth Shifflett

We'll hope to have them at the next meeting in July.

Revised Monitoring Report

Lisa showed the "track changes" version. Notes included:

- Only 28 acres difference with the 2018 WSDA inventory information
- Trying to understand and correct gain/loss information
- Table 17 excludes developed and forest change
- Table 18 shows the relationship to adaptive management threshold
- We'll acknowledge grower checklists

A conference call was held earlier this week with WDFW Olympia staff to discuss their change detection work and how it compares with coreGIS. There are differences between coreGIS and WDFW approaches. Matt discussed their analysis. An additional error assessment was done. He reviewed three examples, where we are seeing changes in vegetation.

Mike Cushman asked what the goal of this evaluation is for VSP. He is not sure how relevant this is. Lisa said we had to establish a baseline for riparian vegetation. The information shows

that agriculture is not affecting critical areas. We're trying to get good information and figure out what it means. We have to say how we are measuring the benchmarks in the VSP workplan.

After this discussion, the workgroup authorized submitting the two monitoring reports to the State Conservation Commission with final revisions to be made per today's discussion. Neil will send around a final version prior to submitting. Neil noted the Technical Panel will be meeting on August 7 and they have the Chelan and Thursday five-year reports on their agenda for review.

Outreach

Lisa review the status of outreach activities. We also looked at the outreach calendar she developed for the next two years. The annual tree fruit days should be added. Ranie also thinks the annual Washington Tree Fruit Association meeting in December is an important opportunity. We'll take off the reference to "Hort Days" in January, that's an outdated name. Vicki said the farm bureau newsletter will probably come out in the fall. Rod Anderson has a newsletter that comes out in the spring that might be useful. All of these will be added to the calendar.

Next steps

The next meeting will be in July. The County Natural Resources Department and the CCD should have their proposed workplans ready for the workgroup to approve so spending can be authorized.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County
Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
Graham Simon, WDFW
Mike Cushman, CCD
Rod Anderson
Ranie Haas (phone)
Matt Stevenson, Core GIS (phone)