

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
9:30 am – 10:45 am
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Public Comment

No member of the public was present to offer comment.

Administrative/Old business

Update on new workgroup members: Norm Gutzwiler is here today and will be an ongoing member. Mike said Rod Anderson will be here next time. Mike is working to have a pear grower join in time for the April meeting.

Project Updates

Hannah noted that the workgroup provided pre-approval for shovel ready projects. The idea is when this occurs, she will report this to the workgroup at the next meeting. There are no current projects being implemented this quarter due to weather. She is setting up an in-house meeting within her department to try and develop a list of projects. Her thinking is trying to get information out for funding opportunities, create a dropdown list of project opportunities that growers can select and submit with their information and post this information on the department's website/ distribute either via mail or email.

Outreach

Vicki suggested e-mails be sent out rather than mailers; she responds better to e-mails. Hannah is noting that for future effort and working with Vicki and Rainie to develop article on VSP for publication and email distribution

Hannah said Seth has put her in contact with Chamberlin. She can't attend their meeting, but she sent him handouts; the meeting conflicted with today's VSP meeting. Hannah will contact a list of other warehouses to see about providing materials at their grower meetings.

She is in contact with Douglas County VSP staff, Liz, and Liz has a booth at Tree Fruit Days. Hannah cannot attend but is providing her with Chelan information. Vicki has her own booth will help manage the VSP booth to check in. Hannah will put the two of them in contact with each other and provide outreach materials for the event. After that, Hannah will be talking with Liz about future joint opportunities.

Other comments:

- Norm thinks the different irrigation groups could be opportunities
- Hannah is continuing to talk with WSDA
- Columbia Fruit meeting is tomorrow; update- Hannah called Columbia and provided them materials- their meeting isn't until Monday the 20th.

- Ranie mentioned Department of Labor Agriculture Safety Days (but might not be a direct fit). She also mentioned doing “blast e-mails” with the farm bureau; they can do “tree fruit topics.” Can also do a special e-mail focused on VSP. She said Corwin Fisher with the state farm bureau is the person she interacts with about outreach
- Ranie said we can get an article in Good Fruit Grower; contact there is Shannon Dineeny. Hannah will discuss this with Ranie following the meeting
- Hannah will connect with Rod Anderson regarding cherry day for Tree Fruit Days at end of January (4th day of the event is in Chelan)

Hannah mentioned a certain dollar amount has been set aside for implementation. She wants to continue working to identify projects and that’s why she is scheduling the in-house meeting. She is not concerned about being able to spend the funding on projects, but it is on her mind.

There was discussion about the types of projects eligible for funding. Hannah said there is a limit on the amount of funding that can be spent per landowner, but not a limit on the number of projects per landowner. Lisa mentioned the desire expressed at a recent VSP meeting for geographic equity. There is interest in that, would be good to get projects in the Stemilt/Squilchuck/Malaga area.

This discussion concluded with Hannah agreeing she will write an FAQ for the workgroup that will discuss what are implementation actions, what is the cost-share process, and other details. This will be for the workgroup members to help them have discussions.

Other Items

Hannah mentioned we are reducing the services provided at the CTC, such as no web meeting provision unless needed for a specific meeting. She mentioned that the SCC has decided it does not have to pre-approve meeting costs, just need sign-off by local department head (Mike Kaputa).

The workgroup decided to move the April meeting from the 21st to the 28th (Neil had a conflict on the 21st). Neil noted that the April meeting will likely be his last as facilitator. He is under contract through the end of the biennium, but only funded for four meetings (which will be done in April).

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Attendees:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
 Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
 Mike Kaputa, Chelan County
 Hannah Pygott, Chelan County
 Norm Gutzwiler

Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
 Ranie Haas (phone)
 Seth Shifflett