

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Quarterly Work Group Meeting

Date: 26 May 2023 2:30-4:00pm

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Mike Kaputa, CCNRD; Lisa Dowling CCNRD; Phil Long, Lake Chelan Research Institute; Lisa Grueter, BERK; Amanda Barg WDFW; Britt Dudek, Chairman; Vicki Malloy, Chelan Douglas Farm Bureau; Ranie Haas, Washington State Tree Fruit Commission; Abby Hendrickson, CCNRD; Sean Williams, WDFW
- Public Comment
 - No public comment was offered
- Discussion Topics
 - General Updates
 - Joint VSP TP/SAC Meeting
 - Stephen gave an update on the Joint VSP TP/SAC Meeting that was held in Ellensburg on May 11th. Stephen and Lisa G. both attended the meeting in person and gave a presentation on the progress of Chelan County VSP Implementation efforts. Lisa presented on the Riparian Mapping and Prioritization project progress.
 - May 30 Joint NRCS/SCC Monitoring Webinar
 - Stephen explain during this upcoming meeting the SCC will be presenting with NRCS on a pair of watershed monitoring tools and methods that may be useful tools in monitoring efforts of the Chelan VSP monitoring efforts
 - Monitoring Plan
 - 2023-25 Requirement
 - Stephen explained to the group that the SCC will have a new requirement of submitting a monitoring plan by July 2024 as a condition of the 23-25 VSP Contract.
 - Riparian Grant Program
 - Britt had asked Stephen to look into a pair of Washington State House Bill proposed to the legislature that focused developing new riparian restoration grants. Stephen reported that the two bills in question did not pass the legislature, however, a new program was defined in the State Compromise Budget. The SCC and RCO will both be receiving \$25 million to start programs focused on riparian restoration. Stephen reported that he spoke with Karla at the SCC inquiring about how the program will operate and who will be eligible to apply for funding. Karla stated that SCC has not made those determinations yet.

- Budget
 - Budget Review
 - Stephen provided the group with a budget review. Budget is in good standing and expected to expend all available funds by the end of June.
- Project Updates
 - Manson Irrigation Efficiencies
 - Stephen stated by of these projects are completed and nearing complete close out
 - Icicle Irrigation Efficiency
 - Mike gave an update on this project, noting that this project should be implemented in 2024
 - Yaksum WaterSmart
 - CCNRD is still awaiting further documentation from BOR to start this project.
 - Entiat Erosion
 - CCNRD, Landowner, and Contracted Consultants met on site for a project kick off meeting. This provided a great opportunity for the landowner to orientate the consultants to the property, erosion issues and damage and allow consultants to gather background information. Future work on this project is schedule for early June to conduct a geotechnical assessment and drone survey.
 - Ecology Riparian Mapping and Prioritization
 - Stephen and Lisa G. gave an update on progress of this project. Matt Stevenson of CoreGIS (not in attendance) has completed the majority of the geospatial analysis.
- New Projects
 - Entiat Irrigation Efficiency
 - Stephen notified the group that two producers within the Entiat drainage are interested in Irrigation efficiency projects and will likely have a project proposal to present at the next meeting.
 - Mission Creek Irrigation Efficiency
 - Stephen informed the group a producer along Mission Creek in Cashmere has submitted all necessary documents for an irrigation efficiency project. Stephen noted this project exceeds the \$5,000 cap for Chairman review and approval, so the workgroup will need to vote for approval and determine cost-share rate. Stephen noted this project proposal will be included in the next meeting
 - Lake Chelan Nutrient Monitoring and Management
 - Through the assistance of the Lake Chelan Research Institute, a pilot program is being discussed surrounding soil nutrient monitoring in the Lake Chelan Watershed. Phil Long was on the call to discuss the conceptual ideas and goals of this pilot with the work group.
- Goals and Objectives Adaptive Management

- Stephen and Lisa G gave a brief update on the Shrub-Steppe habitat mapping conducted by WDFW and the need to adjust work plan goals and benchmarks to more adequately capture this habitat type. There was group discussion on how other counties have worked this into their respective work plans and how detailed any new goals and benchmarks should be for the Chelan County Work Plan. It was determined this topic requires additional discussion and will be on next meetings agenda as well.
- End of Biennia Reporting
 - Two-year report is due by August 30, 2023
 - Lisa G. gave an update on where BERK and CoreGIS staff are on geospatial analysis for capturing change detection and next steps for generating a report.
 - Lisa also mentioned the work group will need to review and approve the report before it is submitted to the SCC.
- Outreach
 - Conducted
 - Rotary Lunch Presentation
 - Future Opportunities
 - Discussion was held around presenting to other local rotary groups and utilizing outreach materials developed for other projects that are applicable to potential VSP participants
- Next Meeting Date
 - Proposed meeting date of late June or early July. Stephen to send out doodle poll with both options.