

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program  
Quarterly Work Group Meeting

Date: 17 November 2023 2:00-3:00pm

Virtual Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86825054309?pwd=QkncEeKtlfQ2jHF5PGIyAxEDpjNOEp.1>

Meeting Agenda

In attendance; Britt Dudek, Grower, Group Chair; Vicki Malloy, CDFB, Member; Leah Hemberry, CDLT; Mike Kaputa, CCNRD Director; Nate Schmidt, WDFW; Phil Long, LCRI; Raine Haas, WTFa; Amanda Barg, WDFW; Lisa Grueter, BERK; Matt Stevenson, CORE GIS; Abby Hendrickson, CCNRD; Stephen Lesky, CCNRD;

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Britt Dudek opened the meeting with Work Group member introductions and new attendee welcome.
- Public Comment
  - No public comment was provided at this time in the meeting.
- Discussion Topics
  - General Updates
    - Riparian Grant Program
      - Stephen gave an update on the Riparian Grant Program that SCC and Salmon Recovery Funding Board are both working on. Draft Guidance is out for review and comment on the SCC funding.
    - Monitoring Plan Development
      - Stephen updated the work group about SCC requiring all VSP counties to complete and submit an official monitoring plan by July 2024. Chelan County has contracted with BERK Consulting to aid in the development of this plan. Lisa Grueter will provide a more comprehensive review of this project later in the meeting.
    - 10 Year Report
      - Stephen provided an update to the group that Chelan County is due for the 10-year report to be submitted Summer of 2024. BERK is also contracted to aid in the development of this plan, Lisa G. will provide more details in her presentation of how this is coupled with the Monitoring Plan development.
  - Budget
    - Budget Review
      - Stephen presented the group with a review of the current budget. Currently the Chelan County VSP program is well funded and in good standing. Capital Implementation funds were received for the cost-share of the McManus Irrigation project. Stephen also explained the additional funding provided to Chelan County for the development of the monitoring plan.

- Project Updates
  - Icicle Creek Irrigation Efficiency
    - Mike Kaputa gave an update on this project. Noting that the Fromm family is nearing a decision of the final irrigation plan design. This project was initially slated for summer 2024 implementation; however, it has been decided that this project will be implemented Summer of 2025 now.
  - Yaksum WaterSmart
    - Stephen gave an update on the Yaksum WaterSmart Grant. Currently there are questions surrounding how to conduct the cultural resources review. BOR is experiencing some staff turnover and awaiting announcement of a new WA Cultural Specialist. Once a new BOR Archaeologist is onboarded, these questions can be answered.
  - Entiat Erosion
    - Stephen provided an update on this project, noting that consultant team at Gray and Osborn are nearing submittal of a draft report. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, with a final draft of Conceptual Erosion Mitigation Measures.
  - Entiat Irrigation Efficiency
    - Stephen provided an update on this project. Project is currently within the 30-day Tribal Review and Comment period. A letter of Concurrence of No Impact has been received from DAHP. Once the Tribal Review and Comment period has closed the Landowner will sign the Cost-Share agreement and plans to install new sprinkler heads in Spring 2024.
  - Mission Creek Irrigation Efficiency
    - This project was awarded Capital Implementation Funds. Stephen informed the group this project has completed the 30-day Tribal Review Period and has received a Letter of Concurrence of No Impact from DAHP. Stephen has notified the landowner that he is clear to begin construction of this project. Project completion is planned for late Spring 2024.
- New Projects
  - Monitoring Plan Development
    - Lisa G. with BERK gave a presentation on the plan to develop the monitoring plan. Plan is expected to be submitted to SCC by July 2024 deadline.
  - Lake Chelan Relic Toxics Monitoring
    - Phil Long of Lake Chelan Research Institute provided an update on non-VSP funding options for a large effort to monitor relic toxics, such as DDT in the Lake Chelan basin. Phil also provided an update on what this monitoring may look like once funded and how VSP may be involved or benefit from this monitoring project.

- Manson Irrigation Mainline Replacement
  - Stephen presented the group with a new Cost-Share project opportunity. Manson area tree fruit producer is seeking assistance in the replacement of a leaking steel mainline. Project will be to replace the steel piping with modern PVC pipe. Project is planned for implementation in Spring 2024. Work Group voted unanimously to approve the project. Stephen will begin developing necessary documents.
- In-Person Meetings
  - Discussion
    - Due to meeting time limitations this topic has been postponed to the next VSP Quarterly Meeting
- Outreach
  - Conducted
    - Central WA FFA Banquet; Q&A Forum
    - Chelan Douglas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
  - Future Opportunities
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- Next Meeting Date
  - First Quarter 2024 Meeting will be held in late March 2024, this will allow for a review of work completed to-date on the Monitoring Plan development. Stephen will send out a meeting availability poll in early March 2024.