

VSP Work Group
Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Date: 24 June 2022

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

****Virtual/Call-in Meeting****

<https://zoom.us/j/95862923857?pwd=MFAzRjFYUmQ3UWRkNXI5MU9mdlZhZz09>

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Work Group members in attendance: Britt Dudek, Chairman; Graham Simon, WDFW; Lisa Dowling, CCNRD; Ranie Haas, Washington State Tree Fruit Assoc.; Vicki Malloy, Chelan Douglas Farm Bureau; Lisa Grueter, BERK Inc.; Mike Kaputa, CCNRD; Stephen Lesky, VSP Coordinator CCNRD.
2. Public Comment
 - a. No members of the public were in attendance to provide comments.
3. Discussion Topics:
 - a. General Updates
 - i. Yakima County Solar Farm Letter
 1. Stephen briefed the Work Group on a letter Benton County Conservation District distributed detailing their concerns around the development of solar energy facilities and the impact they have on agriculture.
 2. The Group discussed the solar facility proposed in Douglas County as well as the possibility of solar facility within Chelan County. The Group also discussed the impacts to agriculture and critical shrub-steppe habitats.
 3. The Group decided Britt and Stephen would draft a letter supporting Yakima County's position.
 - ii. VSP Supplemental Budget
 1. Stephen updated the Group on the additional Implementation budget allocated to the State-wide VSP program, noting the final guidance will be adopted by the State Conservation Commission at their July 21st meeting.
 2. Stephen presented the Group with a list of projects that meet the draft criteria.
 3. The Group had a discussion on submitting a comment to the SCC regarding the possibility of allowing VSP funds made available to complete the design portion of project development.

4. **Work Group Decision:** Allow Work Group Chairman to review and provide project approval for Supplemental Budget application.
 - a. **The Group decided they would conditionally approve the list of Supplemental Budget projects presented as “Conceptual Projects” and final approval would be considered once more project specifics are available pertaining to cost and implementation timelines.**
- b. Budget
 - i. Stephen updated the Group on remaining available funds for the 2021-23 Biennium VSP grant
- c. Project Updates
 - i. Manson Irrigation Efficiencies
 1. Two Irrigation Efficiencies projects in the Manson area are nearing the end of the Cultural Resources Review period. Stephen said once the Cultural Review period has ended, he will meet with the landowners to go over the Inadvertent Discovery Plan. Both landowners will be able to begin their projects the first week of July.
 - ii. Yaksum Canyon
 1. Stephen updated the Group on the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Grant he helped prepare for the Yaksum Water Company to secure funding for their conveyance system infrastructure upgrades.
 - iii. Icicle Streambank Restoration
 1. Icicle Streambank restoration project is slated to begin construction in August 2022. Mike gave a brief update of his conversations with the landowners on the irrigation upgrades for the farm.
 - iv. Tech Memo Outreach
 1. Stephen gave an update of his conversations with landowners identified in the Tech Memos. Multiple landowners are interested in pursuing projects on their land.
- d. New Projects
 - i. Entiat Surface to Groundwater Conversion
 1. Stephen gave a description of this project. The landowner has expressed interest in converting their surface water diversion to a groundwater well for hay production irrigation purposes. Aspect Consulting has been contacted to develop a pre-project proposal if approved by the Work Group.

2. **Work Group Decision:** Enlist services of Aspect Consulting to develop Scope of Work and Cost Estimate.

a. **Work Group Voted unanimously to enlist services of Aspect Consulting. Aspect Consulting will conduct and prepare the following:**

Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) is requesting water right and water supply technical assistance to evaluate the feasibility of converting an existing 25 acre surface diversion on the Entiat River to a proposed well. The subject property (Parcel # 262007553700, Keith Charrier) includes a water right authorization (CS4-SWC258(B)) approved through a change application by the Department of Ecology (Ecology) in 2008. A Proof of Appropriation was filed by the landowner in 2012, but the change has not yet been certified (for use from 2012 to present). Under this scope of work, Aspect proposed to complete the following services as a first phase of this project:

- Complete a Certified Water Right Examination (CWRE) to certify water use over the past 10 years. Ecology will require a certification of the existing change before approving a new change to a well (Budget Estimate \$3,500).
- Complete a hydrogeologic assessment stamped by a licensed hydrogeologist to characterize the geology, evaluate surface to ground transfer criteria under Ecology's Source Delineation Policy, and recommend well depth and sizing (Budget Estimate \$6,000).
- Develop a well driller bid package, performance specification, and well testing plan. Depending on well depth and construction techniques, well drilling on the order of \$25,000 to \$75,000 could be expected (Budget Estimate \$4,000).
- Total = \$13,500

e. Outreach

i. Conducted

1. Chelan Earth Day Fair
2. Contact with Chelan/Manson area Wineries
3. Chelan Field Tour—Diamondback Acres

ii. Future Opportunities

1. Chelan County Farmer's Markets
2. Chelan County Fair; Sept. 8-11, 2022

f. 2022 3rd Quarter Meeting date

i. Proposed date is last 2 weeks of September 2022. Stephen will send a Doodle poll to determine optimal day and time.

4. Wrap-up / Adjourn