

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2020
9:30 am – 11:00 am
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. This was a call-in meeting and no physical presence occurred (Governor's coronavirus requirements). An online meeting platform was used.

Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

Contract Amendment

Neil explained that he was asked by Mike Kaputa if he were willing to continue providing facilitation services through the biennium – till June 30, 2021. He is willing to do so. Mike said it is helpful to have Neil since he has been part of the project since 2014 and has many VSP-related contacts in Olympia and with state agencies. There is also a cost savings with having meetings online since there is no travel associated with that.

The workgroup approved the budget amendment by consensus.

Review of State Technical Panel comments on monitoring report

Lisa presented this topic. The State Technical Panel has provided comments on the monitoring report. The day after this was sent to the VSP Workgroup, we received a letter from the SCC Executive Director accepting the monitoring report. It provides that we need to follow the format being developed for reports going forward. She summarized the comments and her responses:

- Concern from TP that not enough time had lapsed to show results [we agree with that]
- The format is not what they would like to see [we did not have any format provided as we are an early pilot county]
 - There is a training coming up on the format issues
- We did not provide information stating we were relying on the regulatory backstop for CARA and Floodplains [in the report we identified pages where we use the regulatory approach]
- Work plan metrics could be improved [Lisa will work with Hannah and Technical Panel members on this]

Britt noted that he skimmed the document. Bill Eller explained that after the Chelan and Thurston reports they have created a template for the report along with a guidance document. They want to have reports that are formatted in similar ways. The reports will be online. Chelan is unique, with two of the five goals being regulatory. They are going to require information on those two. We must provide data on why we are doing that.

Lisa explained we do not have a metric for those; how would we monitor them? Bill said we should connect with Levi in their office and discuss this. Skagit is also heavily relying on a

regulatory approach. Lisa noted that a lot of counties are relying on regulatory, especially for floodplains. Mike asked what counties not using the regulatory backstop for floodplains are doing. Bill suggested inviting Levi to a future meeting. Britt thinks the SCC needs to provide a template for any county using a regulatory backstop.

Project Updates

Hannah is not in attendance today so has provided a memo updating on this. She noted that there is a new project: Colockum Creek, tributary to the Columbia. The work group approved “Pre-project development” as an allowed action during the last biennium. This potential project has a series of non-performing unscreened diversions that are barriers to fish passage. The project is to develop a proposed implementation method and schedule for addressing these diversions. People in that area are interested in this work. The project cost is around \$15,000 from the current implementation budget.

The work group unanimously approved this project.

Outreach

Neil noted it is difficult to conduct outreach with the restrictions posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. He asked if there were any activities. Mike thinks that after harvest it might be good to have an annual VSP update for the ag community. Hannah can start working on this. Britt suggested reaching out to Ranie Haas; her organization is going to virtual meetings. Vicki said it is difficult to connect virtually. The Farm Bureau regional meetings might be an opportunity. There also might be a way to link up with anything offering pesticide credits.

Chelan NRD will follow up with the Department of Agriculture on pesticide credits.

Next steps: Neil will poll the group on the next meeting, scheduled for October. Mike suggested having it in September to allow planning for a possible VSP annual update for the ag community.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Attendees:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County

Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
Britt Dudek, Chair
Bill Eller, SCC