

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Advisory Committee meeting
Friday, October 26, 2018
9:30 am – 12:00 pm

The meeting began at 9:30 p.m. Facilitator Neil Aaland asked each participant to introduce themselves and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to offer comment.

Administrative updates

Budget status/update: Out of the \$220,000 grant from the SCC, there is \$139,000 left. \$40,000 is for cost share, \$20-20,000 for consultant time. There is \$10,000 unallocated.

Task Order with CCD and update on CCD letter: Jim Bartelme said the CCD was looking forward to implementing the plan but he was surprised that the task order only included \$10,000. That is not enough.

Mike Kaputa wonders if we could adjust the task order to focus on the workgroup participation and not on some of the implementation tasks. Jim was concerned about funding needed to look at past projects and see if they were VSP-related. Mike Cushman thinks the CD should be working with the ag community about this program, documenting what they have already done. He thinks the tasks are work group participation; outreach; and doing the project review work.

Britt understands the concern. It seems unlikely any cost-share work will be done. He thinks the three tasks mentioned above would be helpful. He thinks providing \$20,000 for the CCD task order makes sense, and noted the CD is really important for this. Jim agreed with these changes and can bring it to the CCD Board meeting in November.

John Stuhlmiller said all VSP workgroups are struggling with this. He encourages focusing on ISP, the bigger picture, and monitoring (the first two-year report). He thinks it's most important to do the organizational work

It was decided that Mike Cushman will get a draft to Mike Kaputa prior to the November 20th CCD Board meeting. Mike Kaputa thinks it is time to have Board to Board meetings (County commissioner to CCD Board); others agreed.

Executive Committee – status of formation: Tabled.

Results of riparian imagery analysis to date (screen share presentation): Matt Stevenson, CORE GIS, called in for this item and showed results, using screen share. He reviewed progress to date, showed the “height above river” model. Peer review was done by three others. Mike Kaputa asked if projects done since 2011 will show up; Matt said they would. Lisa noted that projects with both positive and negative impacts would show up. There are several “next steps” items.

Questions and comments included:

- Is any additional information needed to complete this work? [Hillary can contact Ken Pierce with WDFW to obtain]
- There are a lot of disease problems, as you look at height does impact from disease show up? [yes, it will pick up dead trees]
- Work can be completed in a couple of days, will have for next workgroup meeting

Field guide to implementation (final review): Tabled.

Implementation priorities: Tabled

Monitoring report (brief update): Tabled.

Public outreach

Lisa reviewed the two postcards, based on ones prepared for Benton County. One is for general use, other for ag producers. We know the number of products overlapping critical areas; the mapping will help with targeting. She asked for comments in two weeks. Jim didn't think cards should be sent but suggested sending a targeted letter signed by commissioners He also noted that the workgroup needs help with getting more members. He suggested the commissioners in each district send a signed letter to agricultural producers in their district. The letter would be both trying to engage landowners and get more VSP workgroup members. Lisa said Benton also had general ones printed and given to workgroup members for them to hand out. Mike Kaputa wonders about a sub-group in each watershed, with a two year commitment.

Please provide comments on the two letters by Nov. 9 – Neil will send a reminder with the two mailers attached.

Britt noted that now is the time to do outreach, given it's now "meeting season". First week of December is the Hort show in Spokane – December 2-4. Most effective is packing warehouse meetings starting in January. We have a more precise message now.

Hillary and Neil will coordinate on calls to packing house.

The workgroup was reminded that the State Conservation Commission is holding two training sessions on implementation. Dates are December 4 in Chehalis and December 11 in Moses Lake.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Attendees:

- Britt Dudek, CDFB
- Mike Cushman, CCD
- Jim Bartelme, CCD
- John Stuhlmiller, WSFB (phone)
- Matt Stevenson, Core GIS (phone)

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