

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, July 30, 2019
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

Public Comment

No members of the general public were present.

Administrative items

New members: no new update. Seth and Ron are interested. It's a difficult time of year to get new ag members.

Pre-project approvals from last biennium: Hannah discussed three projects: bank stabilization in Mission Creek; water efficiencies in Wenatchee River; and one additional water efficiencies project in Mission Creek for a Christmas tree farm. Carmen suggested bringing in a WDFW habitat biologist, Amanda, to help with determining biological benefit and potential permitting hurdles for larger projects. Hannah said the SCC will only fund projects that can be completed within a biennium and once they are complete (no partially funded projects), therefore we have to be diligent in perusing these larger projects which may require permitting and more time.

Hannah wondered about having a "small works" category of projects, where no permitting is needed. These projects would be smaller in size and cost, "shovel-ready" and have an understood need which could be moved forward without additional approval from the workgroup. Britt thinks that is a good idea. Additional points:

- Write this up and discuss types of projects? Projects types would comply with the list of practices on the stewardship checklist and NRCS BMP's
- Technical service providers would then report on any small works projects implemented for the Workgroup at the following workgroup meeting
- Projects are not to exceed \$5000 increments
- A total of \$30,000 has been set aside within the budget for small works projects
- Would be helpful to develop a list of implementation opportunities that could be a live, working document within the WG

The workgroup then discussed projects to move forward on using current funding. First, the Mission Creek project First priority involves bank stabilization measures with additional potential for water efficiencies

Second, Wenatchee River water efficiencies which would address unscreened diversions and water usage on the Wenatchee River

Vicki asked if the Shifflett project is a result of clearing. There is some discussion with WDFW staff, doesn't appear to be our VSP issue right now. Vicki asked if we need projects in each

watershed; Hannah said With the level of funding allocated for this biennium, that is the ultimate goal but may be difficult to achieve, therefore is not finalized.

Hannah-Note that there is an opportunity to utilize VSP funding as match to leverage other funding sources.

The workgroup approved, by consensus, the ability of Technical Service Providers to move forward with the list of larger projects as stated above as well as spending VSP funding on small works projects in the maximum amount of \$5000 per project.

Britt wonders about developing a project schedule over the biennium. Should be able to define types of projects. Identify a cutoff date, then the VSP workgroup would identify other grant sources/schedules. Lisa suggested having a call for proposals, for bigger projects via an open webinar platform which would allow the public to call in and comment. The workgroup agreed with this approach.

Regarding proposals from the Cascadia Conservation District, Neil said he had received a letter from them stating their intent to withdraw from the workgroup. They are willing to carry out specific projects if a budget and scope are provided to them. Workgroup members think that, down the road, we can contact them if we have a specific need. Graham noted they might be helpful in accessing Entiat properties; they have a hard time getting access.

Vicki suggested that the Fieldsmen's Association and warehouses might also be able to help.

The workgroup asked Neil to forward the CCD letter to them. Britt will draft a response.

Outreach

Lisa explained the handout she provided on outreach. Other VSP workplans have specific numerical targets; Chelan was early and doesn't have those same requirements. It would be good to have some activities in each watershed. Britt noted the number of producers is dropping, but the acreage remains the same. Perhaps we should tie our outreach to acreage. Lisa can bring that item back, written up, to the next meeting. It was suggested that we have 20% of growers in each watershed as the outreach goal. Hannah expressed concern about setting too high of number. Britt suggested waiting for a year, see how it is going, and set numbers at that time. The workgroup liked that idea and decided to wait on setting specific percentage benchmarks.

We discussed the number of stewardship checklists. Commissioner England was very successful in getting a large number of checklists completed within his district. We also discussed adding a section to the Checklist which would allow people to input their personal information and if they would like to be contacted by a technical service provider. The original thought was that these would be filled out with the county or CD therefore we would know who and where the property was. However, since so many were filled out online or by hand and delivered we had no way of reaching out to potential cost-share candidates.

A priority for outreach could be having Mike Kaputa meet with the Fieldsmen's Association, then he would meet with Britt and Vicki to discuss next steps.

We then looked at the spreadsheet of outreach. Lisa walked us through the activities proposed for the next two quarters. Hannah noted that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is having a set of meetings within each watershed this biennium being arranged by the Chelan County Natural Resources Department.

Britt wondered about NRCS local workgroup meetings that used to be held. The three counties would meet and prioritize activities. It happened once per year; he doesn't know if that still exists.

For publications, the Washington State Tree Fruit Association might have the ability to include articles. Hannah wonders about coming up with more creative ways than mailers. Ranie said she will contact Tim Kovis in her office about the December meeting. They also have an e-mail newsletter every other week.

Technical Panel preparation

Lisa reviewed the draft PowerPoint presentation for the TP meeting on August 7. Slide 5 gives the overall report. Slide 13 shows the status of acres. Lisa will be there in person, Britt and Hannah on the phone.

Next steps

The next meeting will be on October 22. Neil will send a calendar invitation.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Attendees:

- Neil Aaland, Facilitator
- Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
- Hannah Pygott, Chelan County
- Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
- Britt Dudek, Chair
- Graham Simon, WDFW
- Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW
- Ranie Haas (phone)