

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 1:15 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

Public Comment

Seth Shifflett was in attendance to consider whether he would join the workgroup as an agricultural member. No other member of the public was present.

Administrative items

Open Public Meetings Act video: Three members have now viewed the required video.

Logistics for BOCC briefing on June 17: An hour and a half is scheduled. Neil will circulate the presentation used for the 2017 BOCC briefing. Workgroup members should provide feedback on what needs to be changed. Add information on what is required by the 2 and 5 year reports.

Update on new agricultural members: Neil to provide one-page handout to Mike in next couple of days that can be used to brief new members on what is being asked – quarterly meeting attendance, etc.

Other: Meeting scheduled for June 5 at Lake Chelan Reclamation District as follow-up to previous public meeting. Mike noted that Commissioner England is going to seek additional participants.

Revised Monitoring Report

Lisa provided an overview. The 2 and 5 year reports are both due this summer. She updated the conclusions around riparian areas, thinks it's probably a loss on paper but not really on the ground. And the loss acreage is below the threshold set by the benchmarks for action. She noted we need to compare the workplan with the new data for 2018 that just came in. It shows a small increase in agricultural lands from 2011. She's planning to do just a quick review since the Berk team has been working a lot with the 2017 data. The critical areas intersect hasn't changed. Mike Kaputa wonders how long it takes to replace one tree fruit with another; Britt said it can be quick, depends on availability.

Discussion then focused on riparian areas and the intersect analysis. 50 sites were reviewed with the largest net loss. Loss shown was often due to shadowing, fire, late season timing. With that understanding, the 5 acres loss shown was reduced to 3 acres. The likelihood is this is fairly meaningless.

There was discussion about what would happen after a major flood event. Lisa noted if the area was large, we could get maps and could overlay areas of loss with our information. For fires, for example, sometimes fire districts keep maps of fire loss areas.

The topic of outreach in the monitoring report was reviewed. Mike Cushman noted that some projects are owned by multiple landowners, so a number of participants should be shown to better represent the amount of landowner participation. Regarding the number of contacts being

sought in Wenatchee and Entiat watersheds, Mike Cushman has provided information to the Entiat Watershed Planning unit through email and during the May meeting. Cascadia has also included a VSP article in the Spring Newsletter sent throughout the County. Mike Kaputa and Hannah will also meet some of the numbers by June 30. The pre-project work is proceeding. Mike K asked Neil to get the one-page description aimed at growers to him as soon as possible.

Outreach

The workgroup reviewed the list of tasks:

- Stemilt: Erin sent a follow-up email to participants. The Partnership will be a good forum, it's very active. It will be kept in the outreach strategy.
- Chelan: Only one person attended the meeting (Doug England). Doug is planning to seek out additional growers to attend the June 5 meeting.
- Entiat: Information about VSP has been provided to the Entiat Planning Unit. There is a standing landowner committee which may be an additional opportunity.
- Wenatchee:

Next steps

The agenda for the June meeting will include continued review of the outreach strategy; the outreach calendar; and a completed checklist from Seth Shifflett will be brought back with comments so we can see how it works.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Britt Dudek, Chair
- Neil Aaland, Facilitator
- Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting (phone)
- Hannah Pygott, Chelan County
- Graham Simon, WDFW
- Mike Cushman, CCD
- Ranie Haas, WA Tree Fruit Growers Association
- Seth Shifflett