

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
VSP Work Group meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
MEETING NOTES

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made around the room. Mike Kaputa said that Norm Gutzwiler wants to join the workgroup as a member.

Public Comment

Abigail Nicholson, WSDA was here to meet with Chelan County NRD. She said WSDA is stepping up their education and outreach. She was discussing a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership with Chelan County. Mike noted they have a good working relationship with WSDA, wanted to connect with them about outreach.

Administrative/Old business

Update on new workgroup members: Mike noted that Wayne Ryman from Dryden may become another member representing agriculture.

Technical Panel Presentation: There was a presentation by Chelan at the last TP meeting on the 2-year and 5-year reports. Thurston did not present. The TP was interested in how sites were picked for field checks. It also seems like the TP is using Chelan (and Thurston) to figure out what would be helpful for other counties. We won't be hearing any feedback from them until January. They are also interested in the stewardship checklists. Carmen said she asked the DFW TP representative if they had any feedback; she wants to help make connections. Lisa noted the SCC recommends tracking new agriculture. Mike thinks it would be good to hear from DFW how they think we are doing.

SCC training sessions: There will be some training sessions in December. They are trying to get information on funding needed to implement workplans. Neil was asked to send out the Yakima letter on funding to the Chelan workgroup.

Budget/Schedule

Hannah said the SCC requires a budget plan, just a rough estimate. She also wants to discuss Britt's idea for a project schedule. Finally, she wants to set a draft meeting schedule for the rest of the biennium. The SCC needs to pre-approve expenses for meetings.

She reviewed a potential spending plan for the biennium:

Total Budget 2019-21	\$240,000
Administration	\$50,000
Consultant	\$45,000
Outreach	\$15,000
Small Works	\$30,000
Large Projects	\$100,000

The workgroup is comfortable with this budget.

There was some discussion about how projects are selected. The commissioners are interested in equity around where projects are located. That is something the workgroup will need to monitor; there is not a lot of control around project locations. Seth wondered about lowering match requirements. Hannah noted it is a cost share program, but we can consider 100% funding. Britt noted it's hard to have equality of project over basins. Instead, we need to consider the equality of outreach. We have to be sure to show our outreach efforts.

Hannah discussed outreach updates. She presented to the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board last month. That sparked a conversation with the Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition. There may be opportunities for activities like riparian planting. She noted they have separate funding for meetings within basins. Mike said these are well attended by growers.

Meeting Schedule for Remainder of Biennium

Hannah asked for discussion and tentative agreement on a meeting schedule. The SCC has to approve expenditures for meetings at least 30 days in advance. She'd like to submit a schedule and get approval one time for the remainder of the biennium (through June 30, 2021). These can be changed if needed. She also proposed deadlines for project approvals. If implementation permits are needed – January 21, 2020; a January 2021 deadline for small works projects; and a June 15, 2021 deadline for completion of all project implementation. The workgroup agreed with this schedule.

The workgroup decided this would be the tentative meeting schedule:

January 21, 2020

April 21, 2020

July 21, 2020

October 20, 2020

January 16, 2021 – meeting – also deadline for small works shovel ready projects

April 20, 2021

June 15, 2021 – all work completed

There may be an additional June 2021 pre-biennial report meeting.

Quarterly Reports will be provided per SCC schedule.

Outreach

The workgroup discussed different outreach opportunities:

- Tree Fruit Days - NW Fieldsmen's Association, WSU Extension, Dawn Milne
- VSP Fact Sheet – Ranie suggested starting with big blast e-mail and then regular advertisements; their newsletter goes out every two weeks
- Statewide Farm Bureau Meeting November 18-20, Wenatchee; could have a table and materials
- Capitol Press emails, Dan Wheat
- WSDA email links
- Good Fruit Grower, Germaine
- Look into the Cherry Institute - BJ Thurlby
- Chemical Fieldmen – they see growers more - Chamberlin, Northwest Wholesale, Wilbur Ellis, GS Long, Joe Wiggs Jr. (we'll invite one of them to the next workgroup meeting)

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Attendees:

Neil Aaland, Facilitator
Lisa Grueter, Berk Consulting
Mike Kaputa, Chelan County
Hannah Pygott, Chelan County
Vicki Malloy, Farm Bureau
Britt Dudek, Chair (phone)
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW
Ranie Haas
Seth Shifflett
Rod Anderson