

Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Quarterly Work Group Meeting

Date: July 17, 2025; 1:30-3:00pm

Virtual Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88058113367?pwd=V5tqk3c3bUgmJPU2lcDr6Dkmgs6Eg1.1>

Meeting Notes

- Welcome and Introductions
 - In attendance; Britt Dudek, Mike Kaputa, Nathaniel Betancourt, Rainie Hass, Randal Chipman, Shaun Cox, Nate Schmidt, Stephen Lesky, Lisa Grueter
- Public Comment
 - No Public comment was offered
- Discussion Topics & General Updates
 - 2025-27 Biennium Contract & Funding
 - Capital Implementation Funds
 - Stephen updated the group on having a fully signed and executed 2025-27 VSP Operating Contract from the SCC. Stephen noted that each VSP County will be receiving \$40,000 of capital funds to use as implementation funds. SCC met today to review and approve final funding guidelines relating to the Capital Funds, we should receive the \$40,000 in the next week or two provided guidelines are approved during today's SCC business meeting. Stephen also updated the work group on the new Capital Funds application windows.
 - Budget
 - Budget Review
 - Stephen provided an update on the new biennium budget. Budget is full with \$290,000 for this biennium, this includes the previous years \$40,000 of monitoring monies
 - 2023-25 Biennial Report
 - Work Group Comments
 - Britt had a comment on ensuring units of the graphs were noted
 - Work Group voted to approve the Biennial Report with the edit of graph units. Lisa and BERK will finalized the report and send to Stephen for distribution to Work Group, County Commissioners and SCC
 - Work Group Decisions
 - Chairperson for 2025-27 Biennium
 - Nominations accepted until start of meeting (1:30pm July 17th)
 - Nomination was received for Britt to remain as Chair

- **Work Group voted unanimously for Britt to remain as chair for this Biennium**
- Landowner Labor Rates
 - 2023-25 Rates: \$22/hr for Adults ; WA minimum wage for Minors
 - **Work Group voted unanimously to keep rates the same**
- Irrigation Projects Under \$5000
 - 100% reimbursement and only require Chairperson approval. All other projects require full Work Group Approval and Cost-share rate determination.
 - Suggestion was made for Chair only approval projects that the entire have a chance to review; if any work group member has a concern then project will be brought before entire work group for review and approval.
 - **Work Group Voted; Irrigation projects under \$5000 only require Chair Approval, however, all members will have a chance to review and if a concern is raised then project will be subject to work group review and approval. All irrigation projects above \$5,000 and all non-irrigation projects will require Work Group review/approval and cost-share rate determination.**
- Project Updates
 - Icicle Irrigation Efficiency
 - Stephen updated group that Mike K, and the Aspect team are still working with the landowners and anticipate a final decision soon. Stephen mentioned this is project he would like to include in Capital Funding applications, but, under the September deadline.
 - Yaksum Infrastructure
 - Stephen updated the group on the WaterSmart grant status and noted this is a project he would like work group approval for capital funding application under the August deadline.
- New/Developing Projects
 - Peshastin Weather Stations (VSP)
 - Stephen noted he is still working with Randall to develop a full project and expects to have something for the work group in the near future. Britt suggested this may be worth applying for under Capital Funds once the project is fully developed.
 - Adaptive Management of Work Plan Goals and Benchmarks

- Stephen reviewed some of the Technical Panel comments with the work group, and, suggested as part of BERK's agreement for VSP assistance we review our goals and benchmarks to incorporate Technical Panel comments from the 10-year report review. Work Group agreed Work Plan goals and benchmarks should be reviewed and updated to match the current state of the program and critical area protection needs of the county.
 - Capital Funding Projects
 - Yaksum
 - Icicle Irrigation
 - WCID Canal Lining
 - Teeny Farms Irrigation
 - Entiat Livestock Watering
 - Stephen gave a review of each project intended for capital funds applications; Icicle Irrigation will be moved to the Sept. deadline due to needing specifics of design and cost. Work Group approved the Yaksum application. Stephen is still working on the project approval applications for WCID and Entiat Livestock Watering, will email to the work group for review and approval ahead of August deadline. Work group had questions on critical area protections of Teeny Farms, Stephen will provide additional information after talking with the landowner.
 - Outreach
 - Stephen has been attending CDFB events to talk VSP with members
 - Stephen gave a VSP overview presentation at June CDFB meeting
 - Stephen elected to CDFB Board of Director's this will aid in connecting larger audience to VSP program.
 - VSP Workshop with County Commissioners on 6/30
- Next Meeting Date / Adjourn
 - Doodle poll will be sent out in early September for late September or early October meeting; goal is to not hold meeting during peak apple/pear harvest.