

# Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program

## **Watershed Group Meeting**

December 8, 2023 10AM to Noon  
KCCD Conference Room

*Or virtually via Zoom platform at:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83624205648?pwd=yRTthyxi5xPlfbhJYzYaOghR8D442E.1>

Meeting ID: 836 2420 5648  
Passcode: 613020

**Dial in:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



# Review Meeting Minutes

- July 21, 2023



# Watershed Group Membership

Representative Group	Member	Alternate
Kittitas County Cattlemen's Association	Terry Clarke	
Kittitas County Farm Bureau	Mark Charlton	Brad Haberman
Kittitas County Hay Grower's Association	Brian Cortese	
Kittitas Reclamation District	Kevin Eslinger	Urban Eberhart
Cascade Irrigation District	Jack Clerf	
Dryland Operator		
Lower County Operator	Karen Poulsen	
Upper County Operator	Jim Miller	
Small Acreage	Matthew Cox	
Small Acreage (Organic)	Bambi Miller	
Yakama Nation	Phil Rigdon	John Marvin
Trout Unlimited	Erin Eaton	Justin Bezold
Washington Water Trust	Ethan Lockwood	
Kittitas Conservation Trust	Mitch Long	



# **WSCC – Kittitas County Contract for 2024-2025 (July 2023 to June 2025)**

- **Kittitas County Contract**
  - \$240,000
  - \$47,000 Amendment
- **Kittitas County – KCCD Interlocal Agreement**
  - Amend to add \$47,000 (and potential project funding)



# Financial Assistance

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
  - EQIP and EQIP WaterSMART – 30 applications
  - Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership RCPP
    - November 17 Sign-Up – Five Applications
  - Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements RCPP
    - On-farm sign-ups to begin in fall 2024
- **Conservation Commission**
  - Natural Resource Investments (Small Projects)
  - Irrigation Efficiencies Program ( 2 apps per year)
  - Riparian Grant Funding (guidelines out)
  - Sustainable Farms & Fields (waiting on additional funding)
  - Washington Shrub Steppe Restoration Initiative



# Financial Assistance

- **VSP Capital Funding Potential Projects**
  - **Cooke Creek RM 4.25 – Fish Screen and Passage**

**Project was approved by the Conservation Commission, but with the request that the Irrigation Efficiencies Program eligible components be funded through that program. Application to IEP is still being reviewed by WSCC staff**



# Financial Assistance

- VSP Funding Assistance
  - VSP Contract Funding
    - Virtual Fencing – Wild Horse CRM
      - -- Collars for cattle - \$15,000 per year
      - --Also applying for WSSRI funding
    - Planting Projects Maintenance
      - -- Stewardship of all current riparian projects regardless of original funding

**Projects must be approved  
by the Watershed Group to  
be eligible for funding**



# Monitoring

- Monitoring Plan Requirement (Due July 2024)
  - WSCC Directive -- Monitoring Guidelines





# Two Year Report

- **All VSP counties have the same deadline for submitting the report.**

According to statute, the two-year report is due to both the county and to SCC within sixty days after the end of each biennium.

[https://www.kccd.net/files/ugd/b7e4d5\\_4e1d673919534c9aaf0d0895358fc12f.pdf](https://www.kccd.net/files/ugd/b7e4d5_4e1d673919534c9aaf0d0895358fc12f.pdf)



# SCC Riparian Grant Guidelines

- The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is seeking comments on the proposed Riparian Grant programmatic guidelines, as well as the draft application and reporting questions.
  - **Comments are due by Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.**
  - Commissioners will be presented with these documents to consider for adoption at the business meeting on Jan. 18, 2024. If accepted, they will go into effect immediately.

<https://www.scc.wa.gov/news/riparian-grant-program-review-and-comment-on-guidelines>



# Roundtable



# Action Register

