



Kittitas County Conservation District

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Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting

KCCD Conference Room, 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg
and Virtually through Zoom (Meeting ID 860 7602 6510)

10:00 AM Friday, January 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees: *Ryan Stingley, Samantha Cox, Jen Nelson, Terry Clarke, Jack Clerf, Mark Crowley, Wendy Mee, Brent Dixon, and Anna Lael.*

Zoom Meeting (Mtg ID: 860 7602 6510) Attendees: *Kevin Eslinger, John Marvin, Bill Eller, Erin Eaton, Ethan Lockwood, Kat Satnik, Karen Poulsen, and Bambi Miller*

I. Welcome

Anna welcomed the attendees to the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Watershed Group Meeting and introductions were completed.

II. Review Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2022, minutes were reviewed and corrections to the action register requested. The sentence was incomplete and should have stated that Anna will ask Jeremy Johnson for an update on the appeal to the Critical Areas Ordinance. Anna will correct the minutes and post them on the website. Samantha noted that Jeremy is no longer at the County and that Anna should follow-up with Dan Carlson. John Marvin stated that the Yakama Nation is appealing the dismissal of their case regarding the CAO.

III. Watershed Group Membership

Ryan Stingley is now the primary representative for KCCA and Terry Clarke is the alternate. There remains an open position representing Dry Land and two producers were suggested. Anna will reach out to them.

IV. Financial Assistance

Anna shared and reviewed each funding source available to producers.

- a. Cost Share Opportunities – NRCS held its first sign-up for the EQIP WaterSMART and EQIP in October. NRCS hasn't ranked applications and have no update if the money being spent. Anna discussed the issue of NRCS cultural resources and will have a delay in projects until the position is hired.*

NRCS had a sign-up for Riparian Buffer Program with a January deadline.

- b. RCPP - KCCD is hoping to have to sign up start at the end of the month. Priority will be on non-KRD lands, as the NRCS WaterSMART EQIP funds are solely focused on KRD lands. Anna reviewed the other ranking questions that will be associated with ranking for RCPP.*

- c. *VSP Funding Assistance – KCCD continues to provide assistance to landowners working to complete planting projects. Anna showed examples of planting projects.*
- d. *Conservation Commission Salmon Recovery Funding –The Conservation Commission received \$10 million for riparian plantings that need to be spent by June 2023. KCCD applied for 4 projects that funding was able to be used on planting. Only one planting will be able to count towards VSP.*
- e. *VSP Project Funding - Bill reported on the capital funds the Commission received and the review committee has met. To date, \$1.8 million of the \$3 million available has been awarded. The Commission is also asking for an additional \$3 million for the next biennium. Eligible projects include on-the-ground projects that protect the five critical areas.*

V. Issues for Discussion

- a. *VSP Project Funding – see above.*
- b. *Sustainable Farms and Fields: Anna shared the new funding source through the Conservation Commission. These funds are for projects that sequester carbon. Funded projects include cover crop seed, no-till drills, GPS equipment for tractors, etc. Anna stated that a no-till drill that would be available for rent by producers has been considered. An idea brought forward in the past was to partner with a local business to store and maintain the equipment. There was interest expressed in the auto-steer/gps technology for tractors.*

VI. Monitoring

- a. *Waterway Mapping Effort: Anna reviewed the mapping project intended to help delineate streams from irrigation conveyance infrastructure and to help focus monitoring efforts especially as related to wetlands.*

VII. Review Goals and Benchmarks and Adaptive Management Needs

- a. *Anna reviewed the Watershed Plan’s 2025 goals and benchmarks. Many of them are and showed that we are meeting or exceeding most of the practice implementation goals. Updated enhancement goals for 2025 are suggested for many of the practices. The protection goals will also need to be updated utilizing the formulas and methodology included in the original work plan. Anna will email out the table for review before the next meeting.*

15 minute Break

VIII. Carbon Credit Opportunities

- a. *Lynn Brewer (Swiftwater SPC) gave a presentation about potential carbon credit opportunities for our county. (see presentation posted at <https://www.kccd.net/kittitas-county-watershed-group>)*

IX. Action Register

- a. *Next meeting will be February 17th.*
- b. *Anna will send out the Goals and Benchmark sheet for review.*
- c. *Tech panel is meeting with groups by region. May 11th in Ellensburg.*
- d. *Anna will send out Carbon Sequestration presentation.*

X. Adjourn 12:10 PM