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 10:00 AM Friday, February 17, 2023

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees: Ryan Stingley, Mark Charlton, Wendy Mee, Samantha Cox, Jennifer Nelson, Brent Dixon, and Anna Lael.

Zoom Meeting Attendees: Jack Clerf, John Marvin, Kat Satnik, and Justin Bezold,

I. Welcome

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

II. Review Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2023, minutes were reviewed and there were no comments or concerns.

III. Watershed Group Membership

The Kittitas County Cattlemen representatives have changed. Ryan Stingley is the primary and Terry Clarke is the alternate. There is still have an open position for Dry Land Operator.

IV. Financial Assistance

Anna shared and reviewed each funding source available to producers.

a. Cost Share Opportunities

- i. NRCS held its sign-up for the EQIP WaterSMART and EQIP in October. NRCS hasn't ranked application and has no update as to the amount of money being spent. Anna discussed the issue of NRCS cultural resources and will have a delay in projects until the Central Region position is hired. EQIP WaterSMART was set up for 5 years and with a million dollars per year in on-farm cost share available. This is year two. Funds not spent each year do not roll over into future years.
- ii. KCCD is holding the first sign-up for the Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership RCPP. The deadline is February 24, 2023.
- iii. VSP Funding Assistance Anna reported that there are currently no planting crews available to KCCD to implement new projects or maintain the existing projects. John Marvin mentioned that he may have crews available to help.

- **b.** Conservation Commission Salmon Recovery Funding The \$10 million allocated for riparian planting work ends on June 30. Currently funded projects are still underway with Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group.
- **c.** Sustainable Farms and Fields Anna reported that KCCD is looking at potential equipment and projects for FY24 funding.
 - i. Funding for cover crops
 - ii. Renting out GPS unit for auto-steer.
 - iii. No-Till Drill.
 - Anna is investigating if a third party will store, maintain and handle renting out the drill. She will also consult with the District's insurance folks about liability issues.

V. Discussion Items

a. Anna talked about House Bill HB 1720 -2023-24 concerning the protection restoration of riparian areas through the establishment of a fully voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program designed to improve the ecological functions of critical riparian management zones.

VI. Monitoring

- a. Waterway Mapping Effort: still ongoing.
- **b.** Soil Health WSDA application for sampling has been submitted.
- **c.** 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Results Kat from Kittitas County Water Purveyors presented water quality data collected over the last year and displayed trends. Her presentation is available here: https://www.kccd.net/kittitas-county-watershed-group.

VII. Review Goals and Benchmarks and Adaptive Management Needs

- **a.** Anna reviewed the updated goals and benchmarks and the changes made (e.g structural vs management). See attached.
- **b.** The Watershed Group approved the updated goals and benchmarks.

VIII. Action Register

- **a.** Anna will email out the next meeting date.
- **b.** Tech panel is meeting with groups by region and will be in Ellensburg on May 11th. Watershed Group members are welcome to join the meeting.

IX. Adjourn 11:30 AM

Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program Updated Goals and Benchmarks February 17, 2023

	Туре		NRCS Code	Practice Name	2020 Protection Objective	2020 Enhancement Objectives	Total Implementation (2011 to 2020)	2025 Protection Objective	2025 Enhancement Objectives	NEW 2025 PROPOSED Protection Objectives	NEW 2025 PROPOSED Enhancement Objectives	Total Implementation 2021-2022	Remaining Needed to meet 2025 Proposed Protection Objectives	Remaining needed to meet 2025 Proposed Enhancement Objectives
	Water Management	Management Practices	449	Irrigation Water Management		8,521 ac	22,581 6,406	829	12,173					
				Irrigation system automation	533 ac					2,459	27,489	2,056	-22,178	2,852
				Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling										
1		Structural Practices	442	Sprinkler System						299	9,406	1,840	-7,947	1,161
			441	Microlrrigation										
			430	Irrigation Pipeline	6,686 ft	139,904 ft	266,001	10,400	199,863	12,413	416,000	71,334	-58,921	78,665
	Nutrient Management	Management Practices	590	Nutrient Management	76 ac	694 ac	18,917	118	991	2,060	19,864	647	-17,504	300
			AIR08	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors										
				Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management										
			WQL07	Split nitrogen applications, 50% after crop emergence or pasture green up										
			WQL11	Precision application technology to apply nutrients										
rsects			WQL24	Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products										
	Pest Management	Management Practices	595	Pest Management	164 ac	967 ac	7,123	230	1,382	775	7,538	0	-6,348	415
t Inte			AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift										
Indirect Interse			AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology										
Ĕ			PLT19	Herbicide resistant weed management										
	Soil Management	Management Practices	327	Conservation Cover	886 ac	6,141 ac	13,075	1,378	8,773	1,424	17,550	2,279	-13,930	2,196
			329	No - Till										
			340	Cover Crop										
			ENR12	Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source										
			345	Reduced Till										
			450	Polyacrylamide Application										
	Range Management	Management Practices	550	Range Planting	225 ac	1,786 ac	4,131	351	2,552	450	4,227	47.4	-3728.4	49.0
			528	Prescribe Grazing										
			ANM09	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat										
		Structural Practices	574	Spring Development	2 facilities	41 facilites	42	3	58	2	FF	0	40	
L			614	Stock Water Facility						3	55	9	-48	4
			395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management		570 ac	500.3	59	814	59	875.0			
			390	Herbaceous Cover										
			391	Riparian Forest Buffer										
			512	Pollinator Habitat								0.9		
ţ	Habitat Management	Management Practices	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Upland/Shrub Steppe Plantings)	38 ac							5.0	-811.2	4.8
sec	anagement	Tructices	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Riparian Plantings)								11.0		
Direct Intersects			643	Restoration of Rare & Declining Habitats			209							
#			645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management			144							
irec			657	Wetland Restoration										
۵		Structural	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	172.6	2 042 6	4754	207	E 440	202	E 440	400	4.050	207
1	Stream - Enhancement	Practices	584	Channel Bed Stabilzation	172 ft	3,813 ft	4751	267	5,448	293	5,448	400	-4,858	297
			614	Stock Water Facility	1 project	29 projects	38	1	42					
		Structural Practices	396	Aquatic Species Passage						2	51	8	-44	5
		Practices	587	Structure for Water Control (Fish Screen)										