



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.*
 - 1. 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**

