



Kittitas County Conservation District

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Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting

Armory, Kittitas Valley Event Center, 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg

10:00 AM Friday, March 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Anna Lael, Lila Hanson, Karen Poulsen, Wendy Mee, Sherry Swanson, Brent Dixon, Bridger Cohen, Justin Bezold, Erin Eaton, Jack Clerf, Bill Eller, Elizabeth Torrey, Kat Satnik, Bambi Miller.

- I. Welcome** – Anna welcomed the attendees to the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Watershed Group Meeting.
 - a. Introductions and a review of the meeting agenda were completed.
 - b. Review of the February 22, 2019 meeting minutes was completed. There were no comments.
 - c. Anna provided a summary of remaining funds for the biennium (June 30, 2019).
- II. Outreach Activities and Materials**
 - a. Anna reported the solicitation and contracting for the On-Line Map and Survey had been completed. The Beta/test version should be ready within the next two weeks which Anna will email out to the Group.
- III. Technical Assistance**
 - a. Anna discussed VSP Inventories with the Group. The inventories of properties could include any maps of critical areas, soils, a list of potential Best Management Practices with descriptions and any potential program assistance information. Bridger handed out mapping examples to the producers at the meeting that showed potential critical areas on their properties. The Group reviewed examples of critical areas mapping in the Power Point as well.
 - b. Elizabeth Torrey mentioned the WDFW Priority Habitat and Species mapping will be coming out soon. Anna said that it would be beneficial to have more species specific information to share with landowners.
- IV. Reporting Requirements**
 - a. The first 2 year report is due August 30, 2019. Bill Eller said that the Commission doesn't have a report template but can provide report guidance.
 - b. A draft report will be available for review at the July 26th meeting.
- V. KCCD Staff Plan**

- a. Anna reported that she is looking into a shared VSP Project Manager position with North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD). She is meeting with the NYCD District Manager today to discuss further.

VI. Additional Topics

- a. Updated National Wetland Inventory (NWI)
 - i. Anna reported that NWI has been updated and it appears the numbers of acres of wetlands has doubled in the County, in part due to picking up all riparian areas. The Group discussed the changes and asked if VSP is considered under the old NWI or the updated NWI. Bill and Anna confirmed that VSP and the VSP plan would be under the new NWI.
- b. Winter Storm Damage
 - i. The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is looking into impacts from storm damage and any additional resources to supplement USDA's Emergency Livestock Assistance Program.
- c. Mountains to Sound Greenway
 - i. The Mountain to Sound Greenway has just been designated as a National Heritage Area (NHA) by Congress on March 12, 2019. The Group discussed what this could potentially mean for agriculture and the County. Anna is going to reach out to other conservation districts within the Columbia River NHA to see if she can get more information.

VII. Participants Forum

- a. There was a question about cost share for Group members. Anna replied that Group members are not eligible for VSP cost share funds, but are eligible for all other types of cost share programs. A property that is operated by a Group member, but owned by someone else not involved in the Watershed Group, the landowner is still eligible for VSP cost share.
- b. There was a question about the interaction of VSP critical areas and the Shoreline Master Program. Anna responded that the Shoreline Master Program would have jurisdiction over the critical area if it was within the shoreline.

VIII. Action Register

- a. The next meeting was announced as July 26th at the Armory.
- b. Watershed Group input on VSP inventory/assessments.
- c. Anna to send out the online mapping test version to the Group.
- d. Anna to reach out to other conservation districts about the Columbia River NHA.

IX. Adjourn