



Kittitas County Conservation District

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Watershed Group Meeting

Armory, Kittitas Valley Event Center, 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg and Virtually through Webex
10:00 AM Friday, July 23, 2021

Meeting Minutes

In-Person Attendees: Anna Lael, Brent Dixon, Terry Clarke, Mark Charlton, Brian Cortese, Lila Hanson, Karen Poulsen, Jeremy Johnston, Bambi Miller, Wendy Mee, Samantha Cox, Jennifer Nelson, Ben Maletzke, Dave Duncan, and Mark Moore

Webex Meeting (Meeting ID: 182 075 8271) Attendees: Mark Crowley, Bridget Pechtel, Erin Eaton, John Marvin, Kat Satnik, Kevin Haydon and Elizabeth Torrey.

- 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 March 26th, 2021, meeting minutes was completed and there were no comments.
- II. **Review VSP Grant Status**
 - a. **Current Grant Status (Ends 6/30/2023)**- Anna reviewed the budget of the new grant agreement between Kittitas County and the Conservation Commission for \$235,000 which is a slight reduction from the past biennium. The interlocal agreement between Kittitas County and the KCCD was reduced to \$233,000 and that agreement was approved in June.
- III. **Financial Assistance:** Anna shared and reviewed each funding source available to producers.
 - a. Current Individual Producer Opportunities - Anna reported that KCCD's Small Project Cost Share Program is underway with applications available.
 - b. VSP Funding Assistance
 - i. Habitat Improvement Projects – Anna reported that KCCD continues to work on upland and riparian planting projects.
- IV. **Monitoring Activities**
 - a. High Resolution Change Detection – KCCD staff continues to work with the HRCD data.
 - b. PIT Arrays – Anna reported that the PIT array equipment for the Wilson and Cherry Creek sites was purchased and should be installed this fall.
- V. **Reporting Requirements**

- a. 5 Year Report - *Anna reported that the letter of concurrence from Carol Smith was received in early April. Anna has met with all members of the Technical panel. She also participated in a listening session and follow-up hosted by Carol Smith.*
- b. 2 Year Report - *Anna reviewed the 2-year report due date and format. She shared the metrics to be reported.*

VI. Issues for Discussion

- a. *Drought Status - Anna shared contact information the Farm Service Agency for potential drought assistance.*
- b. *Carcass Dumping/Compost facility – Anna shared the communications with WDFW regarding carcass dumping and wolf activities. Last year, she was contacted by WDFW to help get the word out that they would pay dump fees for small livestock carcasses that taken to the County transfer station. WDFW was offering this to help prevent reduce attractants for members of the Naneum wolf pack on the edge of the Valley. WDFW contacted her recently about the idea of a carcass composting facility in the County so that livestock owners had options for all carcass sizes. Anna introduced Ben Maletzke (WDFW) who discussed the wolf pack activities and the carcass dump sites and the potential composting facility idea. The Watershed Group discussed potential involvement of VSP in this issue. Anna suggested helping with outreach about carcass options (transfer station, onsite composting, etc) and perhaps assisting with feasibility studies of composting facilities and locations. The Watershed Group was comfortable with the outreach activities and monitoring the discussions about a composting facility.*
- c. *Kittitas County Critical Area Ordinance Update – Anna introduced Jeremy Johnston (Kittitas County Planner) talked about the CAO update process and schedule.*

VII. Action Register

- a. *Follow Up:*
 - i. *KCCD staff will work on two-year report and send it out for Watershed Group review.*
 - ii. *Anna will work with WSU extension and Fish and Wildlife to do outreach to community about carcass dumping options.*

VIII. Adjourn