

Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting
July 21, 2023 10AM to Noon
KCCD Conference Room

Or virtually via Zoom platform at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86150108019?pwd=NVo3ZUdOQ3d3bW5NYlZQWjU2OXBZZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 5010 8019

Meeting Passcode: 730175

Dial in: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



Review Meeting Minutes

- February 17, 2023



Watershed Group Membership

Representative Group	Member	Alternate
Kittitas County Cattlemen's Association	Terry Clarke	
Kittitas County Farm Bureau	Mark Charlton	Brad Haberman
Kittitas County Hay Grower's Association	Brian Cortese	
Kittitas Reclamation District	Kevin Eslinger	Urban Eberhart
Cascade Irrigation District	Jack Clerf	
Dryland Operator		
Lower County Operator	Karen Poulsen	
Upper County Operator	Jim Miller	
Small Acreage	Matthew Cox	
Small Acreage (Organic)	Bambi Miller	
Yakama Nation	Phil Rigdon	John Marvin
Trout Unlimited	Erin Eaton	Justin Bezold
Washington Water Trust	Ethan Lockwood	
Kittitas Conservation Trust	Mitch Long	



WSCC – Kittitas County Contract for 2024-2025 (July 2023 to June 2025)

- **Kittitas County Contract**
 - **\$240,000**
 - **Signed and Returned to WSCC in Early July**
- **Kittitas County – KCCD Interlocal Agreement**
 - **Same Format as previous Biennium**
 - **Updated Budget**



Budget by Task

	FY 2024	FY2025	Total
<i>Task 1: Administration of Voluntary Stewardship Program Agreement</i>	\$1,867	\$1,960	\$3,827
<i>Task 2: Watershed Group Organization and Facilitation</i>	\$9,843	\$9,960	\$19,803
<i>Task 3: Outreach to Producers and Public</i>	\$8,365	\$7,540	\$15,905
<i>Task 4: Implement VSP Watershed Plan including Technical and Financial Assistance to Producers</i>	\$36,626	\$36,823	\$73,449
<i>Task 5: Monitoring and Reporting</i>	\$52,076	\$47,940	\$100,016
<i>Task 6: District Implemented or Cost Share Projects</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$118,776	\$114,223	\$233,000

**Budget must be reviewed
and approved by the
Watershed Group**

Budget by Object

	FY 2024	FY2025	Total
<i>Salaries and Benefits (148 hours/month)</i>	\$64,821	\$68,062	\$132,883
<i>Indirect (25%)</i>	\$16,205	\$17,015	\$33,221
<i>Goods & Services</i>	\$15,000	\$8,296	\$23,296
<i>Travel (mileage, per diem)</i>	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
<i>Equipment (monitoring equipment, etc)</i>	\$12,000	\$10,100	\$22,100
<i>District Implemented or Cost Share Projects</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$118,776	\$114,223	\$233,000



Statewide Advisory Committee & Technical Panel May Meeting Debrief

- Meeting
 - No progress on reporting tool
 - Public lands can be included (test is whether ag practices are happening not land ownership)
- Tour



Financial Assistance

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
 - **EQIP WaterSMART**
 - **Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership RCPP**
 - **February 24, 2023 Sign-Up – Six Applications for \$1.5 million**
 - **Fall 2023 Sign-Up**
 - **RCPP Solicitation – Proposals Due August 17**
- **Conservation Commission Salmon Recovery Funding**
 - **\$3.5 million reappropriated from FY23**
- **Conservation Commission Riparian Funding**
 - **\$25 million – Guidelines in development**
- **Sustainable Farms & Fields**
 - **FY24 Funding Solicitation**
- **Irrigation Efficiencies Program**
 - **New Guidelines out for Review**



Financial Assistance

- **VSP Funding Assistance**
 - **VSP Contract Funding**
 - Cost Share or DIP
 - Planting Projects Maintenance
 - **VSP Capital Funding Potential Projects**
 - Cooke Creek RM 4.25 – Fish Screen and Passage
 - Naneum Creek RM 2.9 and 3.36 – Fish Screen and Passage

**Projects must be approved
by the Watershed Group to
be eligible for funding**



Monitoring

- Equipment and Supply Purchases
 - Yakama Nation PIT Tag Arrays
 - Kittitas County Water Purveyors – Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring
 - KCCD Stream Flow Monitoring, Drone, GPS
- Monitoring Plan Requirement (Due July 2024)
 - WSCC Directive -- Monitoring Guidelines



Two Year Report

- **All VSP counties have the same deadline for submitting the report.** According to statute, the two-year report is due to both the county and to SCC within sixty days after the end of each biennium. Therefore, no later than **August 30**.
- The two-year status report provides the county and work group with a forum for updating the public on the VSP implementation progress made during each biennium. These status reports should provide a snapshot of what has been done during each two-year period and should answer the questions:
 - How far along are we with our planned implementation? (status of plans)
 - What have we done? (accomplishments)
- Review and Comment Period – August 15th-25th

**Two Year Report
Approval Contingent on
Comment Period**



Roundtable

- Drought Declaration



Action Register

- Two Year Report – Review and Comment
- Next Meeting October 27

