



## Kittitas County Conservation District

2211 W Dolarway Road, Suite 4 Ellensburg WA 98926 (509) 925-3352 www.kccd.net



## Voluntary Stewardship Program

### Watershed Group Meeting

KCCD Conference Room, 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg, and Virtually through Zoom

10:00 AM Friday, October 24, 2025

## Meeting Minutes

**In-person attendees:** Anna Lael, Brent Dixon, Mark Charlton, Terry Clark, Samantha Cox, Scott Downes, Mark Moore, and Karen Poulsen.

**Zoom Meeting Attendees:** Jack Clerf, John Marvin, Kat Satnik, and Kevin Eslinger.

#### **I. Welcome**

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

#### **II. Review Meeting Minutes**

*The minutes from August 22, 2025, were reviewed with no comments or concerns.*

#### **III. Watershed Group Membership**

*Anna reported no changes; the dryland representative remains a vacant position.*

#### **IV. WSCC Contract VSP for Fiscal Years 2025 – 2025 (July 2025 to June 2027):**

##### **a. Kittitas County Contract**

- i. \$290,000*
- ii. Amendment 1 -\$40,000 (VSP Capital Funds)*
- iii. Amendment 2 - \$ 107,000 for project*

##### **b. Kittitas County – KCCD Interlocal Agreement**

#### **V. Financial Assistance: Cost Share Opportunities**

*Anna shared and reviewed each funding source available to producers.*

##### **a. VSP:**

- i. Operating*
- ii. Capital: County Allocation \$40,000.*
  - 1. Fish Screen and passage project (reapplication successful)*

##### **b. Natural Resource Conservation Service**

- i. NRCS sign-up deadline for EQIP and EQIP WaterSMART is October 2025.*
- ii. KCCD's Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership RCPP*
  - 1. FY26 – Application for 1 to 2 projects*
- iii. Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvement RCPP*
- iv. EQIP WaterSmart*
  - 1. November 2025 producer sign up (2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 planned)*
  - 2. Water Management Entities:*

- a. *Cascade Irrigation*
      - b. *West Side Irrigating Company*
    - c. Conservation Commission
      - i. Natural Resource Investments (Small Projects)
        - 1. 50-75% cost share, \$10,000 cap
        - 2. Five funded projects, \$50,000 obligated
      - ii. Irrigation Efficiencies Program (2apps per year)
        - 1. Two sprinkler conversion applications submitted
        - 2. One technical assistance application funded
      - iii. Riparian Grant Funding / Salmon Restoration Grant Funding
        - 1. Two applications Funded
      - iv. Sustainable Farms and Fields - *Two applications submitted*
      - v. Washington Shrub Steppe Restoration Initiative (WSSRI)
        - 1. Solicitation closed 10/17/25 *and one application was submitted for virtual fence*
      - vi. Office of Farmland Preservation
        - 1. Agricultural Conservation Easement Sponsorship
    - d. Fish Barrier Removal Board - Solicitation open, up to three applications expected.
    - e. Farm Service Agency
      - i. Livestock Forage Disaster Program
      - ii. Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- VI. **Ten-Year Report:** *Anna shared and reviewed the ten-year report with the group. The report is due November 17th.*
  - a. Draft Data and Report review
    - i. WSDA Crop Pattern
    - ii. WDFW High Resolution Change Detection
    - iii. Water Quality Data
    - iv. Fish Data
- VII. **Cost Share and Capital Project Funding**
  - a. *\$40,000 Capital Funds*
    - i. *Project Categories*
      - 1. *Cover Crop*
      - 2. *Irrigation Efficiency/Drought Resiliency*
  - b. *Timeline – Applications due 3/1/26?*
- VIII. **Round Table:**
  - a. KCCD— Cascade at Coleman Creek construction project has started. The FEMA grant project involving supplemental generators is finally nearing completion with the generators being installed this month.
  - b. Samantha (Kittitas County) – FEMA is remapping the floodplains for Coleman, Cooke, Caribou and Parke Creeks. New maps are expected to be implemented by 2028. There will be community meetings next year to review the maps.
- IX. **Action Register**

- a. Anna will send the 10-year report out to the group.
- b. Next meeting November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**X. Adjourn 11:35 AM**