



Kittitas County Conservation District

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Voluntary Stewardship Program

Technical Committee Meeting

Armory Hall at Kittitas County Event Center, 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg

1:00 PM Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: *Anna Lael, Mark Charlton, Jennifer Nelson, Kat Satnik, Sherry Swanson, Mark Crowley, Arden Thomas, Jeff Brunson, Terry Clark, Ryan Roberts, Jack Clerf*

- I. **Welcome** – Anna welcomed the attendees to the meeting of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Technical Committee Meeting.
 - a. Anna reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives
- II. **Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA)**
 - a. Geographic Areas
 - i. Anna reviewed the various geographic areas that could be used to run the RWA. The areas are for irrigated lands; non-irrigated lands would be categorized into one geographic area.
 - ii. Anna reviewed the Badger Pocket geographic area and described it as everything that drains into Parke Creek.
 - iii. Kat suggested coordinating the geographic areas with the County.
 - iv. Anna review the 8 different geographic area, the total acreage in each area, the percent converted to sprinklers and crop notes.
 1. Badger Pocket
 2. Below Cascade
 3. Above Cascade
 4. Taneum/Manastash
 5. Swauk/Teaway
 6. Big Creek to Peoh
 7. Yakima Canyon
 8. Columbia River
 - b. Anna reviewed the baseline, progressive and resource management systems (RMS) levels and commented that there is a difference in baseline for VSP and RWA baseline.

- c. Anna reviewed the assumptions and results of Badger Pocket RWA and the projected change in 10 years.
 - i. Jen asked how the projected change numbers were generated. Anna said that the group can come up with those numbers, the numbers can change.
 - ii. The group discussed selecting an example farm in each geographic area to gain a better sense of the process.
 - iii. Next the group reviewed the selection of resource concerns in the RWA. Only 4 resource concerns can be selected in the RWA tool. The group discussed the various options.
 - iv. Practice selection was next; only 30 practices can be selected in the tool. The practices need to be things that farmers/landowners will select to do; these will be the voluntary practices under VSP.
 - v. The group discussed the parameters of VSP, No further degradation of critical areas and voluntary enhancement of agriculture. Profitability was thought to be an important resource concern selection. The group discussed profitability, threatened and endangered species, irrigation induced soil erosion and water quality - excessive turbidity as 4 potential resource concerns.
 - vi. Anna expressed the need to ground truth the results and cost pages of the RWA tool.
 - vii. Mark Charlton suggested a meeting of the producers to review the various practices selected.

III. Action Register

- a. KCCD to run RWA on Badger Pocket and Below Cascade Farm, adding easements and trust water as practices.
- b. Review results with Harold Crose.
- c. Set up meetings once the RMA tool is more firmed up.

IV. Adjourn

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.