



Walla Walla County VSP
Nov. '18 Work Group Meeting Minutes

Date: November 6th, 2018 Time: 1:00 p.m. Place: Conservation
District Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Brian Burns, Tri-State Steelheaders Judith Johnsons, Kooskooskie Commons
Mark Klicker, Ag. Community Jason Bulay, Blue Mtn. Land Trust
David Haire, CTUIR
Robert Riley, Ag. Community

Absent: Brian Maiden, Ag. Community; Jonathan Hellberg/Wilson, Ag. Community

Also present:

Tom Schirm, WDFW; Tom Glover, Walla Walla County Planning; Steven Poulos, Tri-State Steelheaders, Renee Hadley, Lisa Stearns, Audrey Ahmann of WWCCD

Phoned in: John Stuhlmiller of the Washington Farm Bureau

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Mark Klicker

Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and approved by majority vote.

1) Discussion with John Stuhlmiller:

Stuhlmiller reported at length on the status of VSP in the state. His key points included the following:

- Most of the plans have been approved; now focus should be on monitoring and the 2-year report due in July.
- Chelan and Thurston are both finding implementation of the plans a challenge.
- The key to success is a strong connection between three main players: the county, the work group, and the implementing agency.
- The focus of the report should be on the impact to the ag. community, not just the number of Individual Stewardship plans.

In response to questions, Stuhlmiller stated that many counties have needed their full VSP grant to complete the work plan so are not planning any project implementation. He advised any projects initiated be completed by the end of June. He stated that monitoring under VSP should be at the county level, not the project level. He thought that a project comparison (such as reporting on a site before/after) as an example would be fine, but that a complete list project by project in the county is not necessary in the reporting or monitoring. Finally he mentioned two forums planned (one for the east side and one for the west) which Hadley and Stearns are planning to attend. Klicker thanked Stuhlmiller who left the meeting (via phone).

- 2) Report on Status:** Hadley reported on progress: interim monitoring has been done, she attended VSP meetings of regional counties, and a report format has been developed for the July report. Table 5 in the Work Plan is to be updated; we are ahead of schedule in terms of meeting the outreach goals. A conservation easement has been completed; the next step is to meet with implementation partners to tally recent work.

- 3) Funds to complete projects:** Hadley referred members to the list of projects. She mentioned that large scale projects were not included as it makes sense to apply for grants to complete them; there is about 50,000 available that could go toward projects. Discussion points included possibly limiting work to riparian areas, work should be related to critical areas, should funds go for projects landowners are required to do, considering focusing efforts on one area (e.g., a stream reach), possibly using funds only on fish-bearing streams, and other considerations. The work group requested a table be developed with the following information listed for each proposed project: completion potential (including consideration of weather), cost, critical areas affected, general location, size, other programs (can another source be used, would this project complement an existing project), match or landowner effort, and impact to species of concern/ESA listed. The table would help in prioritizing projects. The work group decided to prioritize projects at the December meeting.
- 4) Additional comments:** Hadley showed a map highlighting properties with landowners contacted. Broetje orchards have been contacted regarding VSP participation but have not responded. Recent changes to land use have been mostly urbanization. Stearns reported that she has been making the landowner survey into a fillable form to use while working with landowners on site. It will also allow staff to insert photos as part of the work with landowners (as opposed to creating a file of photos and inserting them at a later date).

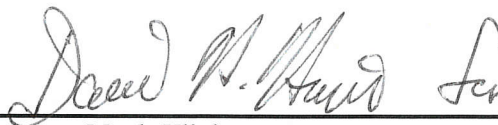
Public Comments: None

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Audrey Ahmann
WWCCD



Mark Klicker
Chairman

Next meeting: December 4th 2018