

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Meeting Minutes

March 14th, 2018

I. Call to order

Norm Passmore called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 1:30 PM February 14, 2018.

II. Attendance

Meagan Bailey, Don Brigham, Norm Passmore, Tom Schirm, Justin Pearson, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Marty Hall.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved as is.

IV. Agenda items

A. General Concerns and/or Issues

- i. None presented.

B. Update from State VSP

- i. Brigham presented an update on the VSP submittal schedule. Brigham will be attending an informal review session on April 13th, 2018 to discuss potential concerns or issues with the draft plan. The plan will be formally submitted to the Technical Panel by end of May, with a formal presentation of the plan at the end of June.
- ii. Incentives are not going to be able to be used; viewed as “gifting” of public monies. The work group will have to come up with alternative methods to incentivize and obtain participation.
- iii. Brigham spoke with Evan Scheffields from the State Farm Bureau regarding the concerns on the confidentiality statement. He was informed there have been other jurisdictions with the same concerns; however, that it should not be and to include the statement in the ISP. The ISP does not ask for sensitive or otherwise private information, so there should not be an issue with landowner concerns.

C. Public Open House on March 22nd, 2018 @ 7pm

- i. Staff will prepare posters and handouts for the public to mill around and view, while asking questions of interest to work group members. Attendance from work group members is requested!
- ii. Agreed to have both an informal setup and formal presentation readily available, pending public interest and participation.
- iii. Staff will prepare Critical Area poster for the event.
- iv. Staff will also prepare and print out the “sample” surveys for the public to comment on.

D. Review of Benchmarks

- i. Brigham prepared and presented two options for how to include benchmarks into the plan. The work group unanimously agreed to use alternative A in the final plan
- ii. Discussion was held regarding the plans “holistic” approach versus taking a practice-to-practice approach.

E. Update on Chapter 5

- i. Calculations in chapter 5 will be updated to reflect the selection of alternative A.

F. Chapter 6

- i. Page 59: Change years
- ii. Page 60: Remove “farm” from ISP; check entire plan to ensure consistency.
- iii. Page 61: Delete “VSP success depends on...” and add more language as provided from the Attorney General.
- iv. Table 6-2: in ‘Tours’, add space between ‘legislative’ and ‘and’.
- v. Table 6-2: in ‘Meetings’, add space between ‘sector’ and ‘industry’.
- vi. Table 6-3: in ‘Farm Service Agency’, change to “Oversees several voluntary *and incentive based* conservation-related...”

V. Adjournment

Norm Passmore adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM.

Public meeting: March 22, 2018 @ 7PM in the Delany Building

Next meeting: March 28, 2018 @ 1:30PM in the Delany Building

Minutes submitted by: Meagan Bailey