

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Group Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2021

Columbia Conservation District Boardroom and Zoom

I. Call to Order

Work Group Chari Rick Turner called to order the meeting of the Columbia County VSP Work Group at 7:00 p.m. on July 29, 2021.

II. Attendance

Attendance: Roland Schirman, Joy Eckhoff, DJ Frame (via Zoom), Rick Turner, Don Howard, Marty Hall (Commissioner), Aneesha Dieu (Conservation District Staff), Val Turner (Conservation District Staff), Dena Martin (County Planning Staff).

III. Approval of Minutes

Schirman moved to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting; Howard seconded; all approved.

IV. County Updates (Dena Martin):

- **State Tech Panel:** The County received a letter of concurrence from the Washington State Conservation Commission agreeing that the County is on track to meet work plan goals. The work group will review comments from the tech panel at future meetings.
- **Budget Update:** Final grant billing for 2019-2021 was submitted with \$75,274 remaining. This was largely due to cost share projects that had to be delayed to the next biennium.
- **2021-2023 Grant Update:** The County received 235,000 for the 2021-2023 biennium.
- **Adaptive Management:** Martin shared updates to the work plan and reformatting by Anchor QEA. Adaptive management will continue in the new biennium with a review of the prevention benchmarks and monitoring methods.
- **Quarterly Report:** The final quarterly report for 2019-2021 was submitted to the SCC and made available for work group review.

V. Implementation Action Items

- **CCD Update (Aneesha Dieu):**
 - VSP 2019-08 Phinney Pasture Restoration has completed Phase 1. The pasture underwent spraying, discing and cultivation to remove unwanted vegetation. Because of drought conditions the landowner will wait to plant a transitional crop of oats. Phase 2 of the project will include a repeat of Phase 1. Costs are estimated to be the same, with an allowance for a 6% increase. VSP cost share, at 75% of the project cost is estimated at \$18,804 with the landowner responsible for \$6,330.

- *Eckhoff moved to support Phase 2 of the Phinney Pasture Restoration Cost Share Project VSP 2019-08. Howard seconded. All approved.*
 - VSP 2019-05 Peyton Spring Development was split into two parts to meet the \$50,000 cost share project cap. Watering facilities, including piping and the tank were placed in Phase 1. Phase 2 will consist of spring development. Costs are estimated at \$50,057 with the VSP cost share covering 75% at \$37,543 and the landowner responsible for the remaining \$12,514.
 - *Schirman moved to support Phase 2 of the Peyton Spring Development Cost Share Project VSP 2019-05. Eckhoff seconded. All approved.*
 - Dieu introduced VSP 2021-02 Archer Farms Pump Site Restoration. The project includes shoreline stabilization efforts to alleviate issues with a pump site where pilings from an old bridge abutment have fallen on the fish screen and are causing bank erosion. The project involved removal of existing debris, installation of a rock toe, and the placement of a LWD structure to improve fish habitat and prevent erosion. The project is partially funded, with NRI covering \$15,000. The request is for VSP to recover 50% of the \$4800 uncovered portion of the project at \$2,400.
 - *Howard moved to approve VSP 2021-02 Archer Farms Pump Site Restoration. Schirman seconded. All approved.*

VI. Discussion/Action Items

- **2-Year Report:** Martin shared that the VSP 2-Year Report is due August 30 and presented a partial rough draft. Martin requested work group comments by August 15 and said she would have a complete draft out by August 19. The work group will need to approve the report for submission prior to August 30.
- **Fair Booth:** Planning department staff are working on plans for a fair booth that will highlight critical areas and showcase VSP cost share projects. Handouts will be available. Schirman and Eckhoff offered to help with booth set-up, if needed.
- **Future Topics:** Tasks for future meetings include report approval, budget development, creation of work group operating procedures and adaptive management.

VII. Comments, concerns, items not listed on the agenda

None.

VIII. Next Meeting

A meeting was set for August 25 at 5:30 p.m. to approve the 2-Year Report for submission.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.