

# Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Group Meeting Minutes

October, 5 2021 ~ Zoom Meeting Platform

## I. Call to Order

Work Group Vice Chair Joy Eckhoff called to order the meeting of the Columbia County VSP Work Group at 10:21 p.m. on October 5, 2021.

## II. Attendance

Attendance: Joy Eckhoff, Roland Schirman, Marty Hall, (Commissioner), Val Turner (Conservation District Staff), Dena Martin (County Planning Staff). Rick Turner arrived late but prior to any action decisions.

## III. County Updates

- Martin reviewed grant timeline requirements with the Work Group. Including:
  - A copy of the contract between the County and the Conservation District was sent to the State on 9/1/2021.
  - The updated work plan, with minor revisions and formatting updates, was sent to the State on 9/27/2021.
  - The implementation budget is due to the State by 10/11/2021.
  - The two-year status report was submitted to the State on 8/30/2021.
- Martin will email the work group information and a link to a VSP Monitoring Symposium on October 13 at 9 a.m.
- Martin shared photos of the fair booth and said that supplies and labor allocated to the booth came to approximately \$800, for budgeting purposes.

## IV. Conservation District Updates

- Val Turner reported that there was missing information on the Archer/Chapman Pump Site Restoration Project. The JARPA was re-submitted and an HPA should be forthcoming.
- The Touchette Reforestation Project will be evaluated to see how the seedlings fared through the drought.

## V. Approval of Minutes

*Schirman moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting; Rick Turner seconded; all approved.*

## VI. Discussion/Action Items

- **2021-23 VSP Budget:** Work group members discussed the new budget noting the following:
  - Work group members wish to retain cost-share projects as a priority for funding.
  - Funds need to be set aside for the collection and organization of monitoring data. The Work Group will discuss collaborations with other agencies, such as the Salmon Recovery Board, as well as other monitoring possibilities at future meetings.

- The Work Group will brainstorm education and outreach methods at upcoming meetings. This is anticipated to consist more of outreach efforts with possible tours and/or online promotion/education. This is not expected to require an increased outreach budget.
- *Rick Turner moved to approve submission of the 2021-23 Columbia County VSP Budget to the State Conservation Commission by task as detailed below and attached. Martin shall have authority to allocate funds between sub-task items. Schirman seconded. All approved.*
  - *Education/Outreach \$4,000*
  - *Technical Assistance, Cost-Share \$170,000*
  - *Monitoring, Reporting, Adaptive Mgt. \$51,000*
  - *Work Group Coordination \$10,000*
- **Discussion of Work Group Guidelines:** Tabled for a future meeting.

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

None.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Martin will send out a Doodle Poll to set a meeting for mid-November. Group members agreed that it will be beneficial to meet monthly from November through February, then return to quarterly meetings.

**IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.*

**Columbia County**

**VSP Biennium  
Budget 2021-2023**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Biennium Budget</b>
Education, Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop/distribute outreach &amp; education material</li><li>• Host outreach opportunities for landowners</li><li>• County fair booths</li></ul>	County Planner, VSP Coordinator	\$4,000
Technical Assistance, Cost-Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer Checklists</li><li>• Ag Stewardship Plan development</li><li>• Develop cost-share agreements</li><li>• Project technical assistance</li><li>• Cost-share match to producers</li></ul>	County Planner, Conservation District	\$170,000
Monitoring, Reporting, Adaptive Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monthly Invoicing</li><li>• Quarterly Reporting</li><li>• Monitor and tracking of project implementation</li><li>• Prepare 2-year status reports</li><li>• Develop adaptive management plan, if needed</li></ul>	County Planner, VSP Coordinator	\$51,000
Work Group Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinate Work Group meetings</li><li>• Prepare Minutes</li><li>• Provide input/review of 2-year reporting information</li></ul>	County Planner, VSP Coordinator	\$10,000
Total Budget			\$235,000