

# Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

## Work Group Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022 ~ Zoom Meeting Platform

### I. Call to Order

Work Group Chair Rick Turner called to order the special meeting of the Columbia County VSP Work Group at 8:04 a.m. on April 11, 2022.

### II. Attendance

Attendance: Rick Turner, Joy Eckhoff, Roland Schirman, Terry Brugeman, DJ Frame, Aneesha Dieu (Conservation District Staff), Val Turner (Conservation District Staff), Dena Martin (County Planning Staff).

### III. Discussion/Action Items

- **Approve Phase 2 of Touchette Reforestation Cost-share project VSP 2019-03:**
  - Dieu provided a brief overview of the original reforestation project.
  - Due to drought conditions only about 5- to 10-percent of the trees planted in 2021 survived. (Approx. 150 to 200 of 3,000 plantings)
  - The new recommendation is to plant in the fall rather than spring. This method has been effective with conservation district river projects. The recent short springs and mild winters make this a more effective option.
  - Trees are currently in low availability and the applicant is able to reserve a purchase in one month, for a November planting.
  - The budget for the original planting was \$6,680. Dieu anticipates a 6% budget increase for a 2022 total budget of \$7080 for Phase 2. VSP would fund at 75% or \$5310.
  - Hall said liked the idea of a fall planting when more moisture is available. Dieu said that the river projects are thriving.
  - *Eckhoff moved to approve Phase 2 of VSP 2019-03 Touchette Restoration. Schirman seconded. All in favor.*
- **Introduction of Truesdale bank stabilization project:**
  - Dieu asked if the work group would consider supporting a bank stabilization project on the Tucannon, north of Starbuck. The river has eroded and is endangering an existing irrigation pivot. The Conservation District has provided engineering and the property owner has purchased root wads. He is requesting help with labor, rocks, and sloping.
  - Dieu said the project falls within the Frequently Flooded Area critical area and the project will help with water quality by preventing erosion and the root wads will improve fish habitat. It will also preserve farm ground that is being eroded. It falls under the BMP or stream/shoreline protection.
  - All members expressed interest in reviewing the project.
  - Dieu will bring a detailed proposal to the regular May 12 meeting.

### IV. Comments, concerns, items not listed on the agenda

None.

**V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 12 at the Conservation District boardroom and via Zoom.

**VI. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.*