

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Work Group Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

I. Call to Order

Work Group Chair Rick Turner called to order the special meeting of the Columbia County VSP Work Group at 8:39 a.m. on October 5, 2022.

II. Attendance

Attendance: Rick Turner, Terry Breugman, Roland Schirman, Joy Eckhoff, Aneesha Dieu, Val Turner and Ben Kleist (Conservation District Staff), Dena Martin (County Planning Staff)

Zoom Attendance: None

III. Discussion/Action Item

• **Cramer Fish Sciences Web Portal Monitoring Presentation**

- Fluvial geomorphologist Reid Camp introduced himself and provided an overview of the approved web monitoring portal project. Camp reviewed the scope and project tasks and provided several examples of interactive web maps.
- Work group members asked questions regarding the project and about monitoring efforts in general.
- Dieu provided the work group with copies of the draft consultant contract for review.
- *Eckhoff moved to accept the consulting contract pending review and approval from the Columbia County Prosecuting attorney. Schirman seconded. All in favor.*

• **DeRuwe Watering Facility Cost-Share Project VSP 2022-05 Review**

- Dieu presented a project to install three watering troughs and required piping. The project will protect Pataha Creek which is an ESA listed stream for steelhead and Dieu intends to submit the project for funding through VSP supplementary budget funds. A project budget was not available for review, but the individual landowner cap is \$50,000.
- The work group discussed the project and asked questions.
- *Eckhoff moved to approve the project pending full supplementary budget approval. Bruegman seconded. All in favor.*
- If the project fails to gain supplementary budget funding, the applicant can re-apply for VSP grant funds during the next funding cycle.

• **Malecha Culvert Installation Cost-Share Project VSP 2022-06 Review**

- Dieu presented a project to replace one culvert and add an additional culvert to create creek crossings for agricultural equipment. Improving access will prevent streambank erosion and potential contamination from agricultural equipment. The existing culvert regularly becomes blocked and causes flooding to the surrounding area.

- Martin noted that the existing culvert is next to a listed wetland and wondered what assessments/permitting will be required.
- *Martin will research the critical areas ordinance to see what permitting will be required and Dieu will develop a budget.*

IV. County/CCD Updates

- **County**

- Martin presented the updated budget and committed cost-share summary.
- Martin provided photos of the VSP fair booth which highlighted the monitoring portal project.

- **Conservation District**

- Dieu updated on current cost-share projects:
 - Phinney pasture improvement is complete. He is looking at a future nutrient management project.
 - Touchette reforestation is preparing to plant trees soon.
 - Truesdale bank stabilization is set to start next week. WDFW has issued a work window extension on the project.
 - Warren fish screen is completed and awaiting financial submission for reimbursement.
 - Millet riparian restoration and Columbia Straw fencing projects are awaiting review/approval through supplementary budget funding.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 24, 2022 at the Conservation District boardroom and via Zoom.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.