

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Group Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2021 ~ Zoom Meeting Platform

I. Call to Order

Work Group Member/CCD Staff Val Turner called to order the meeting of the Columbia County VSP Work Group at 6:33 p.m. on June 7, 2021.

II. Attendance

Attendance: Roland Schirman, Joy Eckhoff, DJ Frame, Rick Turner, Terry Brugeman, Don Howard, Tom Schirm (WDFW), Marty Hall (Commissioner), Aneesha Dieu (Conservation District Staff) Dena Martin (County Planning Staff).

III. Approval of Minutes

Schirman moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting; Rick Turner seconded; all approved.

IV. County Updates

- **State Tech Panel:** The public meeting for State Tech Panel 5-Year Report review will take place on June 10 at 9:15 p.m. Martin, Dieu and Turner will be in attendance.
- **Anchor QEA Adaptive Management:** The VSP did contract with Anchor QEA for adaptive management work. They are currently working with the CCD on updated protection benchmarks.
- **Budget Update:** Martin presented the updated budget (through April) to the Work Group. It is unlikely all funds will be spent. Hall verified
- **Work Group Update:** Rick Turner and DJ Frame have agreed to become active with the work group active.

V. Implementation Action Items

- **CCD Update:**
 - Almost all of the approved projects are nearly complete. Three cost-share projects – Phinney’s pasture improvement, Touchette reforestation, and Fletcher reduced tillage are finished and ready to be paid out. Hutchen’s nutrient management has been completed and payment processed.
 - Phinney’s project has been completed but there was a significant cost increase in spraying, seeding and site preparation costs over what was initially anticipated. The original ask was \$10,151 and actual costs were \$23498.60. Dieu requested an amendment to the project to allow a 75%/25% cost share amount of \$17623.95 rather than \$7613.40, for an increase of \$10,010.60.
 - *Schirman moved to amend Cost Share Project VSP 2019-08 Phinney Invasive Species Control from \$7613.40 in cost share reimbursement to \$17623.95 in cost share reimbursement. Turner seconded. All approved.*

VI. Action Items

- **State Tech Panel Letter:** Martin referenced a letter prepared by Martin and Dieu, on behalf of the Work Group, regarding experience with completing the 5-Year Report and future adaptive management. The letter was prepared following an April 23 Adaptive Management Work Session and will be read to the VSP Tech Panel at the June 10 public meeting.
 - *Eckhoff moved to approve the letter to be read at the June 10 public meeting with the State Tech Panel. Howard seconded. All approved*
- **Election of Chair/Vice-Chair:**
 - *Schirman moved to nominate Rick Turner as Chair. There were no other nominations following three calls for nominations. Schirman moved to accept Turner as Chair. Eckhoff seconded. All approved.*
 - *Howard moved to nominate Joy Eckhoff as Vice-Chair. Bruegman seconded. There were no other nominations. Schirman moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Eckhoff. Turner seconded. All approved.*

VII. Comments, concerns, items not listed on the agenda
None.

VIII. Next Meeting

An in-person meeting was set for Thursday, July 29 at 7 p.m. at the Conservation District. Access will also be available via the Zoom platform.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.