



## Kittitas County Conservation District

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### Voluntary Stewardship Program

## Technical Committee Meeting

Washington Cattleman's Association, 1301 N Dolarway, Ellensburg

10:00 AM Friday, August 25, 2017

## Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** *Anna Lael, Jennifer Nelson, Kat Satnik, Sherry Swanson, Mark Crowley, Rose Shriner, Arden Thomas, Tip Hudson, Justin Bezold, Karen Hodges*

- I. Welcome** – Anna welcomed the attendees to the second meeting of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Technical Committee Meeting.
  - a. Introductions were completed.
  - b. Anna reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives.
- II. General Updates**
  - a. Anna informed the committee about the status of the agreement with the County for this new biennium. It has been approved by both the County and the District, but the Commission agreement hasn't yet been completed.
  - b. KCCD issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to consulting firms for assistance with drafting the VSP Work Plan. Proposals are due today.
  - c. To date, 6 Counties have approved Work Plans, Skagit, Chelan, Thurston, Pacific, Grant, and Whitman.
  - d. The WA State Conservation Commission has suggested dates for submitting remaining Counties' Work Plans. The Technical Review Panel will only be reviewing 2 plans a month. They suggested initial submittal of the Kittitas Plan by December 31, 2017, although May 17, 2018 is final date for initial plan submittal to Technical Panel in order to meet the August 17, 2018 deadline for plan approval via the Technical Review process.
- III. Review of Geographic Areas**
  - a. Anna reviewed the different geographical areas with critical areas maps
    - i. Grazing on commercial forestry was left off the maps as well as State WDFW and DNR land. A discussion followed as to include the State lands.
  - b. The Alkali Squilchuck map had not been included yet. There was discussion about the Ryegrass corridor migration and the PHS is being updated.

**IV. Review of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

- a. Anna reviewed with the Committee the draft RCPP ranking criteria and summary of practice hold downs as examples of how the VSP Work Plan can be implemented.

**V. Review of Critical Areas**

- a. The committee reviewed the critical areas. There was discussion about Fish and Wildlife habitat areas specifically. The protection of riparian areas and shrub steppe habitat will be important as well as including migration corridors. The committee also discussed whether or not to include WDFW game species, other Counties have left them out of their plans. It was suggested that the Rapid Watershed Assessment's (RWA) four resource concerns should be the critical areas instead of trying to utilize indicator resource concerns.

**VI. Action Register**

- a. KCCD to complete a write up the critical areas.
- b. KCCD to run the RWA with critical areas as the resource concern.
- c. Next meeting of the Technical Subcommittee is September 25, 2017 and the next meeting for the Watershed Group is October 25, 2017

**VII. Adjourn**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.