



Kittitas County Conservation District

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Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting

Hal Holmes Community Center, 209 N Ruby St, Ellensburg
10:00 AM Thursday, February 15, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Anna Lael, John Small, Terry Clark, March Charlton Brian Cortese, Jack Clerf, Lila Hanson, Karen Poulsen, Dale Rusho, Justin Bezold, John Marvin, Mitch Long, Arden Thomas, Kat Satnik, Jennifer Nelson, Lindsey Ozbolt, Bill Eller, Sherry Swanson, Mark Crowley, Wendy Mee, Mark Moore, and Vivian Erickson (on the phone)

- I. **Welcome** – Anna welcomed the attendees to the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Watershed Group Meeting.
 - a. Introductions and a review of the meeting agenda was completed.
 - b. Anna reported that there haven't been any changes to the Watershed Group members.
 - c. Review of the January 18, 2018 meeting minutes will be completed at the end of meeting.
- II. **Review of the Comments Received for the Complete Plan and Appendices**
 - a. John Small (Anchor QEA) reviewed the 24-page Comment Response Matrix with all comments received to date with emphasis on shaded comments which are resulting in changes that need discussion by the Watershed Group. ([See attached matrix](#)).
 - i. Comments 175, 177-178, noted the lack of more detail and information on agricultural viability. John indicated he is working to bolster that (likely in Chapter 6).
 - ii. Comment 181 – Watershed Group agreed to leave the and/or language.
 - iii. Comment 182 – In Section 4, it will be noted that not all practices are created equal on the landscape.
 - iv. Comment 201 – The CPPE scores are set by NRCS. Anna and John reported that the Franklin Plan attempted to change the CPPE scores and the Technical Panel is scrutinizing it and asking for justifications. They wouldn't recommend changing any scores as we would then need to put together a significant defense.

- v. Comment 205 – Karen asked why benchmarks don't include a quantification of ag viability. John responded that is not a required quantitative benchmark. Acres of agricultural land are tracked though, so that is one metric that could help indicate viability. Arden suggested maybe adding an ag viability section to the self-assessment.

III. Review of Complete Plan and Appendices

- a. Work Plan and appendices were distributed on February 9. Final comments are due February 21st. John reviewed the document with the Group.
- b. Anna presented the updated goals by community area ([see PowerPoint](#)). She reviewed the changes in the goals including corrections and clarifications where needed (gated pipe in acres vs feet, water control structures and fish screens, etc.). She also reviewed existing programs and funding and current and planned projects.
 - i. Karen asked if irrigation district projects are included. Anna replied that projects like the KRD north branch lining are not, but she did include the EWC fish screen on Coleman Creek as there is a private individual diversion included in that structure.
 - ii. PAM applications are also included but have decreased in recent years, likely due to the number of sprinkler conversions.
 - iii. Buffers were reduced from the previous 24 acres to 5 to 7 acres, which Anna reports is much more feasible.
- c. Expected Next Steps
 - i. Watershed Group to review full Work Plan and Appendices
 - 1. Final comments due February 21st
 - 2. Changes based on comment matrix and today's discussion will be completed
 - ii. Public Review Period – the Plan was posted on the website last Friday and public comments are due February 21st.
 - iii. Submit the Plan to the Technical Panel by March 2nd who will also conduct a public review and comment period. It is expected that the presentation to the State Technical Panel will be scheduled in late March and again in late April.
- d. John and Anna asked the Watershed Group if they were comfortable with the submission of the Plan with the changes discussed today. The Group unanimously agreed to move forward with submitting the plan. Anna stated that she will keep the Group posted on the comments that are received.

IV. Previous Meeting Minutes

- i. There were no comments on the minutes.

V. Adjourn