



Kittitas County Conservation District

2211 W Dolarway Road, Suite 4 Ellensburg WA 98926 (509) 925-3352 www.kccd.net



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting

Heritage Room at Kittitas County Event Center, 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg

10:00 AM July 20, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: *Anna Lael, Jim Huckabay, Mark Moore, Anna Nelson, Justin Bezold, Mitch Long, Jill Scheffer, Mark Charlton, Terry Clark, Kelly McClain, Zach Meyers, Jennifer Nelson, Karen Hodges, Doc Hansen, Kat Satnik, Sam Kaiser, Jack Clerf, Dale Rusho, John Marvin, Jim Miller, Lila Hanson, Karen Poulsen, Tip Hudson, Sherry Swanson, Evan Sheffels, Bambi Miller, Kevin Eslinger, Mark Crowley, Arden Thomas, Scott Nicolai*

- I. **Welcome** – Anna Lael, District Manager of the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) welcomed the attendees to the third meeting of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Watershed Group. [**See Attachment A for power point presentation**]
 - a. Anna reviewed the agenda
 - b. Introductions were completed
- II. **Membership, Participation Agreements and Roles**
 - a. VSP Membership
 - i. Anna updated the Watershed Group on membership. From the direction given at the last meeting, Anna reached out to additional environmental groups to participate in the VSP Watershed Group. Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) was previously offered as a possibility, but they are not going to participate. The Nature Conservancy has had staff changes but will continue to be left on the membership list. The Kittitas County Conservation Coalition is interested and will try to find someone to attend. The Kittitas Audubon asked to be taken off the Watershed Group, stating that they oppose the VSP process. Anna offered to talk to their Board of Directors about VSP to see if additional information would help. Both Trout Unlimited and Washington Water Trust have been added to the Watershed Group. Doc Hansen attempted to contact Futurewise but did not receive a response.

- ii. Jack Clerf noted that he was not on Anna's membership list on the Power Point presentation.
 - iii. Jill Scheffer asked if Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group had been contacted.
 - iv. Anna reviewed updates for the Technical Committee. Zach Meyers was introduced as Ecology's State VSP staff person. Anna introduced Karen Hodges, the new Kittitas County Flood Control District staff person. Doc Hansen will be County VSP lead as Angela San Filippo has taken another job.
- b. Review of Past Meeting Minutes
- i. Jim Huckabay asked the Group to review the previous meeting minutes and asked if there were any comments. Kat Satnik requested that the minutes be updated to show that the Kittitas County Water Purveyors were added to the Technical Committee.
 - ii. Jennifer Nelson requested that decisions made at each meeting be highlighted in the meeting minutes.
- c. VSP Operating Procedures
- i. Jim asked if the Group if there were any questions with the operating procedures. There was a discussion about decision making by consensus or by vote. Jim said that operating procedures are consensus based but a decision by vote could always be proposed by the Group.
- d. Review of Task List
- i. Anna reviewed VSP and the associated RCW, as well as the difference between the Growth Management Act and VSP.
 - ii. The Group reviewed the two watersheds that will be addressed, the Upper Yakima and the Alkali Squilchuk.
 - iii. The Group reviewed the VSP duties which were reorganized in more logical grouping.

III. Update on the Status of Watershed Plans and Planning efforts across the State

- a. Kelly McClain informed the Group that the State Technical Review Panel is currently reviewing Chelan County's Watershed plan.
- b. Evan Sheffels provided an updated on Stevens County and discussed Thurston County's example of ag viability. Evan provided 5 elements to consider when looking at ag viability.
 - i. Farmland
 - ii. Water resources
 - iii. Regulations
 - iv. Soft infrastructure – WSU extension, WSDA, etc.

- v. Infrastructure – “Brick and Mortar”, Roads, etc.
- c. Anna asked about templates for the plan. Evan responded that the 2 pilot Counties will provide good examples.
- d. The Group discussed if grazing on Federal land should be included and it was recommended that it could be considered as part of agricultural viability.

Break

IV. Overview of Kittitas County Regulations

- a. Anna Nelson, a consultant for the County, gave a presentation on an overview of Kittitas County Regulations.
- b. Shoreline regulations for Kittitas Count was updated in March 2016.
 - i. VSP does apply to Shorelines.
 - ii. Existing ag exempt in Shorelines.
- c. The County is in the process of updated the Critical Areas Ordinance.
 - i. VSP process covers agricultural activities in critical areas.

V. Agricultural Practices

- a. The group reviewed the definitions of agricultural practices and lands and brought up using existing ordinances, i.e. Right to farm ordinance, CAO, etc.
- b. The group tasked KCCD to put together a list of ag practices and bring back to the next meeting.

Lunch Break

VI. Attorney General’s Office Open Public Meetings Act Training

- a. The group attempted to watch the video but the sound was not adequate for everyone to hear. Group agreed to watch on their own and send an email to Anna stating as such.

VII. Review Available Data

- a. The group reviewed the Critical Area Maps. Anna plans to post these maps on the KCCD website. Incorporated areas and Forestry areas are not included.
- b. Jill suggested looking at The Nature Conservancy’s land use layers on Nature Serve.
- c. Kelly said she has 2012 and 2015 USDA ag use layers available.

Break

VIII. Review of Available Data

- a. Anna reviewed the existing watershed plans. Recent reach assessments were also reviewed.
- b. It was suggested to add the County Shoreline inventory and characterization which Doc or Anna Nelson could supply.

Break

IX. Participants Forum

- a. The group discussed a strategy for moving forward.
 - i. Identify ag practices
 - 1. Use NRCS codes as a start
 - ii. Identify critical areas
 - iii. Create a Matrix of ag and critical areas
 - iv. Create a plan outline

X. Action Register

- a. Next meeting October 12th, 10:00 to 2:30