



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, October 26th, 2021

Attendees: Ben Floyd, Elsa Bowen, Mark Stedman, Connor Nikkola, Rex Harder, Ron Mielke, Josh Sherwood, Adam Hill and Valerie Vissia. This meeting was web/call-in only.

Meeting started at 2:30 pm. with Ben Floyd providing a brief overview of the agenda items.

Ben also introduced Adam Hill from Anchor and his involvement behind the scenes and working with Connor to generate some GIS maps.

Connor then began to give an update with the 5 cost share projects that were funded. Connor said that one producer is not going to be able to make the deadline for project completion and another project should be funded. Mark created a motion to approve and prioritize 3 producers high on the ranking list and contact them down the line to fund another project at Connor's discretion. Ron seconded the motion. Connor is to be sending an email update to the board in 2 weeks with progress.

Connor then pulled up a map that he has been working on in ArcGIS to create a VSP base map that shows current and past projects, watersheds, critical areas, and monitoring stations throughout the county. Ben went into what we would like to accomplish this biennium and that we are currently only relying on existing data sources which was not a strong case to validate VSP is protecting critical areas according to the last 5 year report. Ben discussed we would like to work on a supplemental monitoring strategy and try to identify the agriculture signal more precisely.

Moving forward Connor said that he would be working with Delaini on sharing more posts on social media to help advertise for VSP. Since our office is still closed to the public and the mailers we sent out last year were not as effective as we had hoped.

The next scheduled meeting is for January 25th at 2:30pm.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

