



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, June 28th, 2022

Attendees: Ben Floyd, Elsa Bowen, Mark Stedman, Connor Nikkola, Rex Harder, Ron Mielke, Levi Keesecker, Craig Madsen, Amanda Richardson (DOE), Melissa MacKelvie (WDFW) and Valerie Vissia. This meeting was web/call-in only.

The meeting started at 2:30 pm with Ben Floyd going around with introductions and providing a brief overview of the agenda items.

Connor began the meeting with an update on monitoring efforts throughout the county. He began by showing a map of the locations of all the transducers and other temperature gauges the district has installed and where there has been historic ecology stations. Connor mentioned that data along Coal Creek has been hard to acquire with lack of water at the selected location and multiple temperature gauges failing. Moving forward there is hope to gather better data with new site locations. He also presented the workgroup a visual graph to compare the temperature along Hawk Creek from the data he has collected to better understand what is happening between sites and see what VSP practices may have influence on this.

Connor then transitioned into demonstrating how to use the GIS monitoring tool that Anchor QEA put together with data received from the county. He explained by utilizing areal imagery from 2011-2020 you can see the change in land use and cover in the county to better help showcase how this tool can be used for VSP purposes. Connor also showed how to compare data in certain WRIA's or HUC10/HUC12 watershed areas to get more precise information and create graphs in Microsoft Excel with a data report from each one of the points. Rex Harder brought up that this was similar to what Spokane CD is doing with regenerative agriculture and their bio ag group. Mark Stedman also commented that this could be of use to Courtney Thompson at the county to use and work with producers to see the historic use of the land if someone was going to purchase in Lincoln County. Levi Keesecker followed up with mentioning that this was a unique tool and that it may be beneficial to present this at future VSP symposiums or meetings for others to see. Melissa MacKelvie also added that this was similar to what WDFW does with their PHS maps available to the public and was wondering if this would become available also? Ben commented that this has not been made available yet but are encouraged to work with Connor if you would like to see what is going on your property or surrounding.

Connor's final update with the district outreach started off by talking about how generic mailers in the past have not worked as much as we would have liked them to. By using the GIS management tool though it is possible to focus on the needs in certain areas to better match outreach plans for more feedback and involvement. Looking ahead Connor would like to get more individual stewardship plans

filled out and more social media posts on how to get involved. Connor also gave an update that one of the VSP cost share projects dropped out and that the workgroup needs to vote on another. With the timing of when this needs to be completed he recommended not funding a project that may require a lot of permitting and listed a few of the ones on the waitlist. Ben suggested to create a list of the top ranked 4 projects and email the workgroup once completed. Connor noted that the current ranking criteria can be challenging because many of the projects rank the same. Mark came up with the idea of having multiple people rank each one individually to help with his problem.

Ben finished off the meeting by updating the workgroup that Connor and himself will be presenting this information at the WSCC VSP Tech panel meeting on August 11th and anyone is encouraged to attend. Levi explained a little on what to expect and shared there was a meeting on July 17th if we would like to join to watch other counties present beforehand. Rex made a comment for our next meeting that 2:30 worked good and that Ben asked is he would like to present a little information he and Craig have learned about regenerative agriculture. Craig also mentioned that there was a tour with the Coueur d'Alene tribe along Hangman Creek and Turnbull that we may be interested in going to along with the regenerative ag.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm and the next meeting is scheduled for October 25th at 2:30 pm