



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ben Floyd started the meeting at 2:00 pm with a reminder to the work group that the meeting today is a walk through and overview of the work plan and a review of the agenda. Vivian Erickson presented a re-cap of the November, 15th meeting highlighting several points.

- Rename checklist –VSP Self-Assessment Checklist
- Update conservation practices matrix to include NRCS practices implemented since 2011 and additional practices identified by Work Group. Big thank you to Ron Mielke for his additions to the matrix
- Discussed relying on existing monitoring programs and not creating new ones. Follow-up with Jason Kunz with WDFW on habitat related mapping
- Add private businesses to VSP role and responsibilities list
- Development of a one page handout with FAQs on VSP

Ben Floyd reviewed the agenda for the meeting and started with the six (6) areas for the Work Plan –

CHAPTER 1

Section 1. - **Introduction**

- Introduce VSP background
- Summarize the Work Plan elements
- Roles and Responsibilities for Work Plan Development
- Brief FAQs section - this will be the basis for the one page handout. What do people want to know? What is VSP and how does it affect me?

Section 2. – **Regional Setting - Maps**

- County Profile
- Analysis Units
- Agricultural Land
- Agriculture in Lincoln County * QEA to double check the number of farms (900#) and the 2012 market value of agricultural products produced in Lincoln County (\$183 million) along with the number of livestock in Lincoln County. Eddie Johnson would like to add a *soil series* to the draft presentation, Vivian replied that it will be included to the draft. Eddie – “that will work”. *

CHAPTER 2 *Regional Settings – Critical Areas*

FWHCA, Wetlands, Geologic Hazards (Erosion), CARA, FFA

Section 3. – Baseline and Existing Conditions

- Critical Areas Intersection with Agriculture
- Geo Hazards Example – Water Erosion Potential *Elsa Bowen questioned using the 2015 maps for the 2011 baseline? Ben does not think it will be a problem and will use aerial maps moving forward*
- Geo hazards Example – Wind Erosion Potential
- Critical Area Functions and Values
- Agricultural Viability – Regional Perspective
(The ability of a region to sustain agricultural economy and production over time)
- Agricultural Viability – Farm Perspective
(the ability of a farm to meet financial obligations and make profit)

Section 4. – Protection and Enhancement Strategies

- Conservation Practices *will add practices from the Conservation District to this*
- Crop Rotation Example *add annual cropping*
- Top 10 NRCS Practices Applied by projects and acres (2011-2016) *add CSP to the matrix*
suggestions from the Work Group

Section 5. – Goals and Benchmarks

RCW 36.70A.720 (1) – Work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement for critical areas.

- Goals and Objectives – Goal: Protect or enhance surface water quality *reworking this statement at the suggestion of the Work Group*
- Benchmarks and Monitoring Indicators – Goal: Protect or enhance surface water quality
- Goals and benchmarks – Goal: Preserve and enhance existing native habitat areas, increase habitat areas at the farm-scale

Section 6. – Implementation

- Implementation Framework * Ron Mielke wondered if LCCD can handle the implementation lead role? Elsa added that she could see hiring an additional specific lead for VSP*
- Integrated with Existing Programs and Plans
- Regulatory Environment – even though the VSP is an alternative approach to critical areas protection and the Growth Management Act other rules and regulations still apply: Floodplain development, Discharges to waterbodies, and Impacts to waterbodies/wetlands

Outreach –

Outreach During Plan Development

- Industry meetings
- Other meetings where producers already meet etc. *grower's meetings throughout the county, Lions club, Livestock Association, Farm Bureau etc. * *Ron Mielke will get us information on several regional meetings*
- E-mail announcements or postcard notifications WSU list
- Articles in the Capitol Press/VSP 101 and summary of the Work Plan

Outreach During Plan Implementation

- Media, Public events, Individual outreach, VSP self-Assessment tool/Checklist

Next Steps –

No meeting in January. OEA will be working on the Plan draft during that time and will have the FAQ 1 page handout ready by Jan 3 or 4, and the draft Work Plan will be ready to send out a week in advance of the meeting in February. The next meeting is February 21, 2-4 PM Public Works Building.

Attendees:

Workgroup members:

Craig Madsen

Jeff Schiebel

Keith Schaeffer

Tom Harding

Garith Krause-phone

Keith Nelson

Ron Mielke

Mark Stedman

Eddie Johnson

Tom Harding

Val Vissia

Elsa Bowen

Other Attendees:

Ben Floyd

Jason Kunz -phone

Vivian Shin Erickson-phone