

Odessa 3/22/16

Ben Floyd- Anchor QEA & Elsa Bowen-Manager Lincoln County Conservation District opened the meeting with an introduction and had all attendees introduce themselves. 14 people attended including facilitators and Lincoln County Commissioner Mark Stedman.

Bill Eller – VSP Coordinator from the Washington State Conservation Commission presented an overall view of VSP and Ben Floyd – Facilitator Anchor QEA then presented a timeline and flow chart. Along with information from the Washington State Farm Bureau. Ben pointed out that the VSP work group will be looking for what's unique about Lincoln County and making sure that the VSP plan is written appropriately.

Mark Stedman Lincoln county commissioner explained that Lincoln county did not opt in to GMA and due to their size did not have to but it leave them open to other regulatory issues.

Sue Lani Madsen – watershed work has already been done and would like to see that work brought forward and not have to recreate the wheel. Ben Floyd said that we would look very closely at the Watershed Plan. Sue Lani wants to make sure that VSP acknowledges the “Watershed Plan”

Sue Lani pointed out that in the past Lincoln County has had a major problem with Ecology – Ben & bill pointed out that with VSP will have an opportunity to work with and present our plan to them. Sue Lani is also worried about the interpretation of the plan to ecology. There was also the question of whether we could use VSP as a push back on private lands being purchased by the public (DNR, BLM, WDFW).

Keith Schaffer asked whether not farmers can sign off or not and Ben Floyd pointed out that this is a Volunteer plan.

Ben & Elsa talked about the actual forming of the Work Group and application process and that there is a possibility that some meeting may be done by webex, teleconference or some other mean and would not take part during harvest and maybe more frequent during the winter months and will be flexible. Although we have 2yrs and 9 months to complete Ben is hopeful we will be done earlier than that for presenting to the technical board so if we are not immediately approved we have ample time for rewrite and review.

Ben & Bill pointed out that Chelan County is just about ready to send their plan in and we will have their history as a pilot program to help us in our endeavors.

Wilbur 3/22/16

Ben Floyd- Anchor QEA & Elsa Bowen-Manager Lincoln County Conservation District opened the meeting with an introduction and had all attendees introduce themselves. 11 people attended including facilitators and Lincoln County Commissioners Rob Coffman & Mark Stedman.

Bill Eller – VSP Coordinator from the Washington State Conservation Commission presented an overall view of VSP and Ben Floyd – Facilitator Anchor QEA then presented a timeline and flow chart. Along with

information from the Washington State Farm Bureau. Ben asked “Who is already doing conservation projects with the CD?” 7 of 9 producers raised their hands.

Jeff Schiebel asked whether or not there would be incentive money for funding of projects and implementation in the future and Ben stated that that they are hopeful for funding in the future.

Bob Bandy had a question about producers with Ag on DNR ground and would this apply to them. Bill Eller stated that he would look into that and have an answer for us next week. Rob Coffman also questioned whether or not if the Sage Grouse programs would possibly be a problem.

A question was asked about where to find maps of Shoreline Management Plan in Lincoln County. Ben pointed out that they can be found on the Lincoln County website and Val for the CD stated that she’d add a link to the district website.

Bob Bandy also pointed out that Lincoln County is unique with its different amounts of rainfall and we have pasture, wheat, timber. Ben- “That is the beauty of VSP – writing the program to fit Lincoln County”

Commissioner Coffman had questions about the technical panel and what was the process for approval etc. Bill & Ben both explained that the process isn’t quiet complete as no one has submitted a plan as of yet but that Chelan County will be ready to do so this next month.

Davenport 3/22/16

Kicked off the Davenport evening meeting with Ben Floyd- Anchor QEA & Elsa Bowen-Manager Lincoln County Conservation District with an introduction and had all attendees introduce themselves. 18 people attended including facilitators and Lincoln County Commissioners Mark Stedman & Scott Hutsell.

Bill Eller – VSP Coordinator from the Washington State Conservation Commission presented an overall view of VSP and Ben Floyd – Facilitator Anchor QEA then presented a timeline and flow chart. Along with information from the Washington State Farm Bureau. Ben pointed out that the VSP work group will be looking for what’s unique about Lincoln County and making sure that the VSP plan is written appropriately. Ben also mentioned that hopefully there will be funding down the road for implementation and that Thurston & Chelan County –who were the pilot counties- are just about ready to present their plans for technical review.

Scott Hutsell – Lincoln County Commissioner had concerns that it was a little too fluid and also wanted to know how far along was Chelan and will we be able to know what is and isn’t working for them? Scott also mentioned that Lincoln County has opted –in to VSP since we are not a GMA or Growth Management Act county as a safety net. Ben replied that “yes – we will be able to see and use Chelan’s plans good and/or tried.

Rick Pereleberg – Reardan High School AG teacher had a question about the Technical review and/or regulatory people. Bill explained the technical plane and who they are; Amy Windrope DFW, Brian Cochrane WSCC, Kelly Mclain WSDA and Tom Clingman ECY.

Ben then presented the Washington State Farm Bureau information with statement and backing Of, By, With and For Producers. Ron Mielke – asked whether CSP will be more restricted or will it be same? Ben stated it will be the same, your contracts will not change. Ron also wanted to know will lessee have to check with owner to participate and to write a VSP plan as an agricultural operator. Ben & bill both stated they would check. Scott Hutsell also wanted to know why this was being called “Watershed” and Ben pointed out that we had removed that term moving forward and VSP work group will be used instead.

Ben, Elsa and Val Visisa explained the work group application process and that the deadline to apply is April 8th and the first meeting will be on April 19, 6PM Davenport Public Works bldg. Davenport, WA.

Meetings will be flexible not during harvest and possibly include webex and/or teleconferences