



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Monday, July 16, 2018

The meeting started at 12:30pm with a welcome from Ben Floyd and John Small to the first of many VSP Implementation meetings.

Ben -Today's meeting is to discuss how we will collaborate to develop tools for tracking and reporting, and how to document real work that is happening. There's a certain amount of money that needs to be spent by June 30, 2019 – less than \$100,00 to get some practices on the ground plus permitting and then hopefully more money down the road for implementation. Discussion also today on the Implementation of the Outreach Plan and how do we reach all producers including small farmers in the 10-20 acre category.

Implementation Outreach Discussion

Elsa - Our board of Supervisors would like to hold Growers Meetings throughout the county at individual producer's shops and have a designated facilitator. Originally, Evan Scheffels was mentioned as someone who would be a great draw, but he recently accepted a position with the Department of Agricultural. A work group member or John Stuhmiller was then suggested by the group. Elsa asked the group what they thought would be the most effective way to get people to show up to these meetings. County Commissioner Mark Stedman thinks the messaging needs to be strong and to the point: "Protect Your Property Rights" "How can we help you protect not only your property but also your rights?" to get good attendance at these meetings. The Work Group discussed meeting 1 to 1 in smaller areas like Sprague, where everyone knows each other. Discussion about press releases and postcards and if any counties have done either yet? Ben received a post card in Benton County where he lives.

There was also some discussion about who would approve projects that would be "cost share" projects using VSP funding. Ben shared that it was his understanding that the Workgroup would have the authority to decide. Ben asked the Workgroup "what is the best way to identify project?". Tom Harding asked if EQUIP projects not funded by NRCS might qualify. Elsa thought Probably and that permitting would be fine but wasn't sure how to get that information from NRCS. Elsa stated that LCCD has "some" complimentary cost share funding for projects. Waterways are expensive and time extensive. Ben asked about wetland enhancement? Even if you didn't complete the project you could at least get the permitting done. John Small stated fencing projects could also be considered and that they would not have to meet NRCS specification. Elsa asked how why they would not have to meet specs? Ben stated that this was VSP money and if it's better than 2011 that it would be considered an improvement. Elsa – we will need to find out if EQUIP info is public information. Ben thinks a meeting with FSA and NRCS would be needed in the future. Elsa told the Workgroup that FSA is on board to partner. Ben

reminded the group that it's important to showcase projects that protect critical areas and ag this biennium with high quality photos for outreach and reporting materials. Workgroup decided that October is a good time (after seeding) to call for projects. Ben – If we're good with Outreach let's move on.

Monitoring and Reporting Framework

John - We are looking at web forms/on-line reporting system (confidential) that could be facilitated and reported back to the state Technical Panel which is currently working on some guidelines. Farmers could then voluntarily provide data that can be linked to a tracking tool. Franklin County CD currently has one that can be used with tablets in the field which could be customized. Mark asked if there was money in the budget set aside for this. John remarked that we have a pretty good guestimate for budget and Ben added that there are other counties we could collaborate with who also benefit from using this tool. Elsa – this could be a system where all data would be collected the same way into an on-line system. Recording it one time in then going into a storage database. Ben - we will start designing and outlining what this would look like and bring it back to the group for approval and demonstration prior to making anything public to ensure the interface with agricultural community is effective. Elsa – as we move forward remember probably only 60-80 producers based on our Outreach Plan in the Workplan the key will be accurate and through documentation.

Next Steps: Early Sept-October postcards to go out all producers with specific marketing to small farmer (5-10 acres). Keep Workgroup informed monthly with emails and continue meeting quarterly. Create and publish press releases, call for projects due in October. Late Sept-October hold grower/shop meetings locally. Next meeting will be October 23, 12:30pm.

Attendees:

Workgroup members:

Ben Floyd
Jeff Schibel
Tom Harding
Garith Krause
Val Vissia
Elsa Bowen
Mark Stedman
Eddie Johnson
Ron Mielke -phone
Rex Harder

Other Attendees:

Vivian Erickson-phone
John Small
Kristen Balko