Attendees: Ben Floyd, Elsa Bowen, Mark Stedman, Connor Nikkola, Jason Kunz, Levi Keesecker, Rex Harder, Jeff Schibel and Bill Eller. This meeting was web/call-in only.

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

Ben Floyd discussed the 5-year report feedback we received from the tech panel and agencies reviewing the report along with Levi Keesecker from the conservation Commission.

* Tech panel consisted of a representative from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Agriculture, and the conservation commission.
* Data reflected each of the benchmarks had been met but tech panel commented on the limited amount of monitoring data throughout the county made it hard to tell where exactly the results of VSP in the county were coming from.
* Discussed flow and water quality strategy to start monitoring in coordination with Department of Ecology to improve data available.

Mark Stedman asked if each agency had the same amount of votes or if one had higher authority over the other. Levi Discussed how August 12th 2021 the tech panel will host an open public meeting to ask questions and talk about how to make monitoring work based off of their comments on the review. It then is sent on the Carol Smith with the conservation commission for a final review and decision.

Additionally, Jeff Schibel also asked if any fires or negative effects from the drought in the county over the next few months will have a negative impact on VSP and maintaining our goals? Ben reminded everyone that there should be no effect as we accounted for this in our work plan and is an element out of our control.

Elsa Bowen then gave a presentation of the final work plan and budget for the fiscal year 2021-2023. Funding was relatively the same as the previous biennium ($5,000 less) and suggested split the costs similar to previous except potentially leave money available for cultural resources for cost share projects. Elsa also noted that the county commissioners had also approved and signed the new VSP contract.

Due to lack of quorum the meeting was only informational and no decisions were made. Special meeting with additional work group members to vote on approval to be held in the following week.

One of the work group members, Val Vissia, retired last month and discussed replacing her position on the work group with Connor Nikkola. Connor has been working with Val on VSP implementation for roughly 2 years and will be taking over her position as VSP coordinator at the district. Due to lack of quorum no action was taken.

Connor then gave a brief overview of all the projects completed through the VSP cost share program and the benefits of each one of the projects. Connor also said he would send out additional before and after photos of each of the projects to the work group to see the changes made by the VSP program.

Ben Floyd gave a brief discussion on a look ahead to the next 2-year report due in August. An additional meeting in late July or early August was discussed before the deadline to go over the report. Jeff brought up that it may be hard to get a quorum due to harvest. As it gets closer an additional poll may be sent our to see everyone’s availability.

Finally, Connor then gave a short presentation on outreach efforts for the next years. Talked about how social media has been working for our Firewise signs and could be a good idea to push VSP on those platforms as well. The office is still closed to the public or by appointment only but will continue to spread the word of VSP through other meetings and announcements at the district.

Next Steps:

Schedule a special meeting on June 29th 2021 to vote on work plan and addition of members to work group.

The meeting ended at 3:30 PM