



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Ben Floyd opened the meeting at 2:00 pm – the emphasis of today’s meeting will be spent reviewing the Work Plan draft and spending time on the “Goals & Benchmarks” and reviewing the differences between Vol 1 and Vol 2. Quick discussion of next steps: Comments due March 3rd on the Work Plan and a correction to today’s agenda. Next month’s meeting will be held on March 7th, from 2-4pm not on the 21st.

Ben addressed the group and asked if there were “Things you’d like to address?” Eddie Johnson asked if we could still reference things before 2011 even though we are only interested in data after 2011? Ben replied that yes we could reference practices prior to 2011. Ben added that we will do a brief update on the meeting with the County Commissioners that took place earlier today.

Work Plan Objectives –

Vivian Erickson introduced the 2-volume system. Volume 1 is more user friendly – open, clear, for the public. Volume 2 will also have the technical appendix. Ben asked for general impressions – Jeff Schiebel, thought there was way too much information to be absorbed for a document to give to a producer/neighbor. Even though there was lots of info he was able to go areas of direct interest to him. Elsa asked whether more could be trimmed or because of the RCW are we limited? Ben added that there are requirements but lots of opportunity to adjust as we go. The technical appendix is a necessity for the panel but, Vol 1 extras could go to Vol 2 . and that we still have self-assessment check list that will be 3-5 pages long. Keith Nelson liked how easy Vol. 1 was to scan through. Eddie Johnson wanted to make sure we weren’t missing some crops etc. and Ben reassured the group that this is an example of some but not all crops etc and there will be more detail in Vol. 2.

Vivian – Introduction Work Plan-Vol. 1

Work Plan-Two volume approach

Volume 1: Work Plan (for producers/general public)

- User-friendly layout with summary level information
- VSP Self-Assessment Checklist

Volume 2: Technical Appendices

- Appendix A - 2011 Existing Conditions Summary
- Appendix B - Goals, Benchmarks, and Measurements
- Appendix C - Analysis Unit Profiles
- Appendix D - Outreach and Implementation Plan
- Appendix- Existing Plans and Regulations

Vivian reminded the group the Vol. 1 has 3 audiences; Producers, Landlords and General Public Ben pointed out that these bullet points will be the checkboxes for the tech panel and will make it easy for the panel to go through. Vivian led the group through Volume 1.

1) Roles & Responsibilities

2) Lincoln County Regional Setting

Tom Harding thought it painted a pretty rosy picture and that maybe we could use more wheat specific picture on pg. 11 for Dryland Ag practices. Eddie Johnson would like heavy residue pictures. Ben reminded the group if they had pictures to please send them to Val or Vivian. It was noted that there was a typo on Critical Areas.pg 13

3) Baseline and Existing Conditions

Ben asked the group if they thought there was too much detail here? There was a lot of discussion on Figure 3-1 Wetlands and Streams Map pg. 19 about adding language/footnote that these are not necessarily active streams but inactive and that "we farm it all."

Jeff Schiebel would like to add Moose, Cougar to Mammals on pg. 22.

Need to switch out photo of cattle on pg. 35 (Adams Ct.)

Jeff Schiebel will look for a photo of the proposed pipeline from the East District to replace photo on pg. 44.

4) Protection and Enhancement Strategies

Ben would like the work group to review all of this area carefully. Can we achieve these goals?

John Stuhmiller reminded the group

to make sure that you can do these not 2% chance of completing. Remember anything you do is an enhancement if it is more than what was done since July 2011. Ben stated that the goals for enhancement is to make sure you can achieve it and maybe even exceed it.

Discussion was moved to Power Point presentation with Ben Floyd.

Goals & Measurable Benchmarks -

Ben reminded the group that most of this information will be added to the technical appendix.

Discussion continued about **Discontinuation of Practices**. The Work group will have an opportunity to change % moving forward in our next meeting. Rex Harder suggested maybe wording of “less likely or more likely?” Keeping it a range ex. 0-5.

Next Steps –

Anchor QEA would like all comments no matter what they are back by March 3rd for our March 7th meeting from 2-4pm..

Ben, Elsa & Val met with the Lincoln County Commissioners before this meeting to discuss whether we just keep moving forward or do we try to finish and get the plan done by the end of June? The Commissioners think that we don't try and submit by the end of June but give some time to do admin work and then pick it up in the Fall. Ben asked the group if anybody wanted to see the plan pushed forward now? Eddie and Jeff thought we needed more outreach. Ben asked if anybody saw it differently? Rex Harder commented that we would be able to adjust from other counties plans as they go forward. Ben agreed that it would be beneficial for us. Tom Harding asked if there was any info or likelihood of funding moving forward? John Stuhmiller thinks the likelihood is good and if not immediately it would just go on hold until funded.

Ben asked the group if they would please forward info to Val or Elsa about any meetings moving forward that we could attend and commented on how important it was recently to have Ron Mielke at one the meetings to be there and not only represent VSP but also answer questions. It made a huge difference.

Attendees:

Workgroup members:

Craig Madsen

Jeff Schiebel

Tom Harding

Keith Nelson

Ron Mielke

Mark Stedman

Eddie Johnson

Tom Harding

Val Vissia

Elsa Bowen

Other Attendees:

Ben Floyd

Bill Eller-phone

Vivian Shin Erickson-phone

John Stuhmiller-phone

Dean white