

# Voluntary Stewardship Meeting

## March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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- 1) Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Roland Schirman
- 2) Attendance: Meagan Bailey, Kim Lyonnais, Don Brigham, Eric Thorn, Terry Bruegman, Justin Pearson, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Scott Magill, Roland Schirman, Merle Jackson, Tom Schirm, Marty Hall, and Steve Martin
- 3) Minutes from last meeting approved without comment
- 4) Comment: Whitman County VSP draft is available for review and to use as an example
- 5) Outreach and Communication Objectives: ensure ongoing interaction between producers and local agencies
  - a) Early outreach → no comments/changes
  - b) Future outreach → should start working on these now; no other comments/changes
  - c) Future on-going outreach → no comments/changes; Meagan, Kim, and Don will continuously work on these methods
- 6) Farm Stewardship Program
  - a) Importance is in the wording; this isn't a Farm Plan or a Management Plan
  - b) Farm Stewardship Program is unique to VSP and each individual program is tailored to individual producers
    - i) Potentially send out survey regarding participation/involvement
- 7) AG Viability
  - a) Definition is not in state RCW; however, state task force has provided recommendations on defining AG viability
  - b) We may want to work on wording. Instead of "productive farm" use "optimize production"
  - c) No additional comments
- 8) Measureable Benchmarks
  - a) Protection goals MUST be met; enhancement goals are OPTIONAL
  - b) If existing practices are identified within VSP as existing protective measures, we must indicate the connection between the goal, the practices, and the expected protections of critical area functions and values
  - c) Goal: Protect/balance AG viability with critical area functions
    - i) Goals are based strictly on critical area function
  - d) Objective: Protect through conservation practices (direct seed, nutrient management, ETC)
  - e) Goal → Objective → Measureable Benchmark
  - f) Quantifying Measureable Benchmarks
    - i) Apply methods to relate conservation practices benefits to critical area functions and values
    - ii) Account for practices implemented, continuing practices, and practices discontinued
    - iii) Tracking implementation and maintenance of conservation practices
  - g) Relate practices to functions and values: Conservation practice physical effect-describes how each practice effects AG viability and critical area functions
  - h) How to show: qualitatively or quantitatively
    - i) Show connection between critical areas and conservation efforts
- 9) Open meetings act compliance
  - a) Everyone to complete online video training course prior to next meeting
  - b) Meagan will be signing sheet to document completion
- 10) Meeting close at 6:55PM by Roland Schirman

Minutes Submitted By: Meagan Bailey

Minutes Approved By: Don Brigham