

# **Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program**

## **Meeting Minutes**

December 15, 2017

### **I. Call to order**

Roland Schirman called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 1:00 PM on December 14, 2017 at the Columbia County Planning office.

### **II. Attendance**

Chair Roland Schirman, Meagan Bailey, Greg Abramson, Don Brigham, Tom Schirm, Marty Hall, Justin Pearson, Terry Bruegman, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Norm Passmore

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes were approved as is.

### **IV. Agenda items**

#### **A. General Concerns and/or Issues**

- i. Question: is there any rule of thumb on what should be included within the main plan and the appendices?—There is not; each plan will be different and is entirely up to the request of the Work Group and jurisdiction.
- ii. Concern: Is the outreach we have completed been effective at reaching a variety of members of the public?—Unsure; Don Brigham and Meagan Bailey will craft a flyer that can be delivered to various other work groups to spread more information about the plan, goals, etc.

#### **B. Update from State VSP**

- i. Consultant Don Brigham recently attended a VSP workshop in Spokane, Washington. The following subject items were discussed at this meeting:
  - a. The State does not want to see a plan that was written for them; it should be written for the jurisdiction by the work group; “plan for the user”.
  - b. Columbia County should emphasize the uniqueness of the area and the plan; the State wants to see that within the plan.
  - c. Specific details on who was in the Work Group should be listed within the plan, and explain how the individuals present effectively represented the community.
  - d. There should be specific acknowledgements on monitoring limitations, explaining how there are limitations on certain monitoring procedures; it should be considered an ongoing and flexible tool.

- e. Within Columbia County, mapping shows a high soil erosion potential throughout the entirety; however, the State VSP is aware that if a farmer is working that land, that chance of erosion goes down tremendously—it is still present, but unlikely.

C. Review of draft Chapter 4 comments from the November meeting

- i. The star graphics on page 6 and page 7 should be removed; to the general user, it may be confusing on what conservation practice is more effective
- ii. Under figure 4-2 and 4-3, language should be added to state the fact that this information does not include private operations/conservations practices.
- iii. Table 4-3 has yet to be completed; there is a chance the information from that table will be combined a different table. Justin Pearson and Terry Bruegman will follow up with a table proposal for the plan.
- iv. Section 4.2.3: Justin Pearson has the numbers for this section and will be working on compiling data for the plan. Discussion on CRP and that there is a need for a “credit” to be counted; what will happen if acreage is removed from CRP? There should be a statement added regarding CRP and indication that federal funding is likely to end.

D. Review and discussion of draft Chapter 5 of Work Plan

- i. Page 1—we want to revisit the introduction as a whole and determine if this information is necessary or if it’s repetitive.
- ii. Section 5.21—correct to ‘5.2.1’
- iii. Page 4-5—correct the dates on the blue boxes to 2011.
- iv. Section 5.3—this section is lifted from Whitman County; indicators are processes that are done post-plan adoption and pre-five year monitoring; will re-visit and review in its’ entirety; should include caveat that we are only able to review indicators that are occurring on private lands
- v. Page 8—fix bullet indentation.
- vi. Table 5-8—under water quality, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet: correct spelling on ‘agriculture’
- vii. Page 14-15—correct graph to include all information on one page.

Adjournment

Roland Schirman adjourned the meeting at 2:42PM

Next meeting: January 10, 2018 @ 1:30PM in the Delaney Building

Minutes submitted by: Meagan Bailey