

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2018

I. Call to order

Roland Schirman called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 1:30 PM January 24, 2018.

II. Attendance

Meagan Bailey, Don Brigham, Tom Schirm, Justin Pearson, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Marty Hall, Roland Schirman

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved as is.

IV. Agenda items

A. General Concerns and/or Issues

- i. None presented.

B. Update from State VSP

- i. No new updates; other work plans are under informal review with the State.

C. Update on work group roster

- i. Updated and new list will be presented at the next meeting,

D. Review of Chapter 4

- i. Table 4.1 → This table illustrates example strategies, where Chapter 5 will go into detail on Columbia County specifics
- ii. Table 4.3 → Kept simple to avoid redundancies, table should be expanded to include what Critical Area(s) are affected by each practice.
- iii. Overall → Review table/figure labels and re-work for consistency; Also check narrative to ensure appropriate annotations. Chapter four is complete.

E. Review of Chapter 5

- i. Table 5.7 → General discussion regarding the information within this table; these numbers track acres on government funded projects only—refer to existing footprint for

annotation demonstrating that the work group/plan cannot track self-funded projects. Some of the listed processes should be removed, including Energy Management, Woody Residue, Watering Well. The information under these categories do not contribute to much as a whole; should be reevaluated.

- ii. Table 5.8 → Concern regarding fencing numbers; Justin/Terry will compile some research from the Conservation District and Salman Recovery Board data. Tree/shrub-estimated yearly reduction should be 0%.
- iii. Section 5.3 → Page 19, update Department of Ecology streamflow link
- iv. Table 5.10 → Plug in numbers to finalize table and allow review

F. Individual Stewardship Plans (ISP)

- i. There are multiple approaches on how the ISP can be implemented, including having meetings and entice producers to at least complete the questionnaire
- ii. It should be noted that all information is confidential. The data received may be communicated on a broad/general level, but no specifics will be released to the general public
- iii. A sample questionnaire will be created and emailed to the work group; overall, ISP should be short and basic to get a broad/general understanding of the situation, followed by expansion of questions/information if the landowner is interested in moving forward

G. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas

- i. Discussion on wording to be included in plan; all RCW's and WAC's refer to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas—our work plan should as well to ensure consistencies. Plan will be updated to implement this change.

H. Case for Participation Benchmarks

- i. Discussion was held regarding the “why” on benchmark monitoring by the work group, and how the work group does not want to be held responsible for elements out of control (i.e. climate, storm events, etc.); participation benchmarks will track individuals under a certain program, the number of acres, number of river miles, etc.
- ii. This will be included within Chapter 5 of the Work Plan

V. Adjournment

Roland Schirman adjourned the meeting at 3:05PM

Next meeting: February 14, 2018 @ 1:30PM in the Delaney Building

Minutes submitted by: Megan Bailey