



Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting

January 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Conference call via Zoom

In attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Voting Work Group Member?	Watershed WG Member?
Amanda Barg	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife		X
Tim Behne	Landowner	X	X
April Clayton	Orchardist, Chelan-Douglas Farm Bureau	X	X
Britt Dudek	Orchardist, Chelan-Douglas Farm Bureau	X	X
Lee Hemmer	Rancher, Foster Creek Cons. District	X	X
Elizabeth Jackson	VSP DC Coordinator (FCCD)		X
Levi Keesecker	WA State Conservation Commission		
Carolyn Kelly	South Douglas Conservation District (SDCD), Public		
Alex McLean	Landowner	X	X
Jeffrey Rock	Dryland Farmer, SDCD	X	X
Amanda Ward	District Manager, FCCD		

Voting and Watershed Work Group Members not present: Robert Ramm, & Norman Tupling.

Meeting Summary

- **Welcome and Meeting Purpose**
 - Review and approve the five-year report.
 - This meeting is a formal meeting – a simple majority quorum was present (6/8).
 - Meeting minutes from December 15, 2020 were approved. Motioned by Alex McLean, seconded by Lee Hemmer.
- **VSP Work Group Applicant**
 - The work group motioned to approve Carolyn Kelly, VSP Work Group Applicant, to replace Jeff Rock as the South Douglas Conservation District VSP voting representative. Motioned by Alex McLean, seconded by Britt Dudek.
 - Carolyn will replace Jeff at the next regularly scheduled VSP WG meeting once Douglas Co. Commissioners have finalized her application.
- **Review and Approve Five-Year Report**
 - Liz reviewed adaptive management measures based on 2016-2021 Benchmark (BM) tracking for BM-3 (Lower Crab), BM-6 (Lower Crab and Grand Coulee), BM-9 (Lower Crab), and BM-14 (Lower Crab and Grand Coulee).
 - No comments received.
 - Liz reviewed benchmark progress and adaptive management measures from 2016-2021 for BM-5 (all WRIA's).

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- April stated that the Farm Bureau can report total acres in the county.
- Liz reviewed benchmark progress and adaptive management measures from 2016-2021 for BM-8 (all WRIA's).
 - Britt commented that GlobalG.A.P. creates organic-certification standards and are the most commonly referenced certifier. He recommended to add “determining other third party certifiers”, such as SQF and Primus, as part of adaptive management.
- Liz reviewed benchmark progress and adaptive management measures from 2016-2021 for BM-15 (all WRIA's).
 - Work Group revised the adaptive management language to highlight how promoting wildlife in orchards is counterproductive against food safety standards. WG opted to evaluate whether BM-15 is even relevant to include in the Fish & Wildlife goal prior to the 2026 five-year report. Amanda Barg, WDFW representative, concurred with the WG conclusions.
 - The section was revised to include the Work Group discussion points prior to submitting the five-year report.
- Liz reviewed the Goals Results section.
 - Jeff Rock stated to include improve coordination and communication between conservation districts to capture actual cost-share efforts countywide.
 - SDCD can help perform adaptive management efforts in WRIA Lower Crab.
 - WG agreed to include: VSP Producer Survey revisions (reduce the time to fill it out, categorize it by land use, remove NRCS/CD's as check boxes, add FSA as a check box); coordination with adjacent counties that share Douglas Co. WRIA's (to get a better understanding of what conservation activities are occurring at an entire watershed level, however, major water bodies, such as the Columbia River and Banks Lake, may reduce these analyses as the water bodies create significant boundaries that lack cohesiveness of conservation activities installed in the separate counties); and consolidate the Goals and Benchmarks while determining which key conservation activities are relevant/irrelevant since 2018.
- Liz shared the Participation Strategies and Performance Metrics section.
 - No comments received.
- Liz shared the Critical Area Monitoring section.
 - No comments received.

The work group decided by consensus to approve the five-year report to be submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission prior to the January 22, 2021 deadline.

- **Meeting wrap-up**
 - VSP Work Group will reconvene after a new Douglas Co. VSP Coordinator is hired. Any VSP-related questions can be forwarded to the staff at Foster Creek CD in the meantime.
- **Adjourn 6:26 pm**

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