



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, August 9th, 2021

Attendees: Ben Floyd, Elsa Bowen, Mark Stedman, Connor Nikkola, Rex Harder, Pete Wyborney, Ron Mielke, Josh Sherwood and Craig Madsen. This meeting was web/call-in only.

Meeting started at 7:00 a.m. with Ben Floyd providing a brief overview of the agenda items.

Connor noted a few additions to the agenda to add/remove workgroup members.

Ben then started by giving a brief overview of the 2-year report. The final report had not been sent to the workgroup members yet Connor noted. Ben suggested that Connor send the report to everyone after this meeting to review and send any edits for approval back by Wednesday of this week. Mark Stedman moved to submit the 2 year report after Wednesday if there are no pending changes. Rex Harder seconded.

The next new agenda item was to remove Justin Carstensen from the workgroup and add Val Vissia. Ron Mielke moved and Rex Harder seconded the above action item. Ben then suggested that we should investigate adding an additional workgroup member.

Connor then shared the current VSP cost share waitlist and ranking sheet. Connor highlighted the top 3 projects on the sheet and how they would best showcase VSP in the county. There were several ties for the 4th and 5th projects, Ron Mielke suggested we fund projects that are not located in one central area and are dispersed throughout the county. Connor then gave additional suggestions based off location and project knowledge working with the producers but noted some listed may not want to still be involved. Mark moved we approve 4 VSP cost share projects that were top ranked and wait to approve an additional project after updating the waitlist sheet. Josh Sherwood seconded the motion.

Moving ahead Ben shared the information for the 5 year report public meeting on August 12th 8 am- 11 am via zoom, as well as the due date for the 2 year review which is August 30th. Suggestions were made that the next meeting still be virtual with a possible in person meeting in the year of 2022. Craig Madsen noted virtual meetings are much easier and convenient to get a quorum. The next meeting was set for October 26th at 2:30 pm via zoom.

The meeting ended at 7:45 am.

