



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, February 20, 2018

The meeting started at 1pm with a welcome from Ben Floyd with Vivian Erickson running the power point from Anchor QEA. Review of the agenda with the Work Plan edits and comment/Response Matrix edits - discussion on Whitman and Franklin Work Plans and that there where many changes/edits after the Tech Panel review. Ben hopes they will have some answers after meeting again on Friday. Ben asked the group whether they thought they would be able to agree on the work plan & finalize today if we have a quorum today with a follow-up web-ex meeting. Group answered they thought it was doable.

Edits for Public Comment Response Matrix

WIND EROSION

Adding a new note #4 to Work Plan Table 3-1 for Wind Erosion:

4. Acres are based on wind erodibility group (WEG) data obtained in 2015 (see Appendix B-1 for data sources). New WEG data was published in September 2017 at the end of the planning process for this Work Plan. The 2017 data does not affect the goals or benchmarks established in the Work Plan; however, future reporting on the Work Plan could incorporate the 2017 data.

WATER EROSION

Update note #3 in Work Plan Table 3-1:

3. Includes area mapped with the higher potential to be susceptible to wind and water erosion (see "Appendix B-3 for County CAO definitions). Actual erosion occurrences depend on weather events, vegetation, and other conditions. Additionally, other soils and areas within the County are susceptible to more moderate erosion potential or erosion risks from other factors.

PRIVACY

Update note #5 in Work Plan Section 4.1

*5. Suggest adding the following in a textbox to Section 4.1 page 33: **Privacy Note:** Self-Assessment checklists can assist producers in developing and "individual stewardship plan" in coordination with the CD. "individual stewardship plans" that a conservation district helps a produce develop are confidential and exempt for disclosure, similar to farm plans developed by conservation districts (WSCC 2017). Conservation practices information shared by producers with CD will be reported for VSP at the watershed and County scales.*

Add reference: WSCC, 201, VSP Statewide Advisory Committee and Conservation Commission Policy Advisory #01-17: The confidentiality of Individual Stewardship Plans Under VSP Work Plans and Landowner Assessment tools, August 2017. Available from: <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/VSP-SAC-Policy-Advisory-01-17.Aug-2017.pdf>

Ben – If someone fills out a checklist without a stewardship plan the Conservation District would have to disclose the information. If the checklist is provided with an individual stewardship plan it is not reportable.

John Stuhlmiller – Recommendation from the technical panel – if you have a Farm Plan produced by a C.D. it is exempt. ISP is a Farm Plan even if it is not as detailed.; it is what will follow the checklist.

Elsa – Do you have to be a planner to do the plans?

Ben/John – No

Ben – Checklist and procedures can all be part of the Farm Plan

John – ISP is a Farm plan and is exempt from disclosure. Make sure that the language is in the plan add – *Therefore, that makes it a Farm Plan and is not disclosable.*

OUTREACH

7. Updated and moved description of public outreach to new “Outreach” sub-section 1.3. Added the following new appendices:

- *Appendix E: VSP Overview and Checklist*
- *Appendix F: Public Meetings Summary*

Ben – We will be adding (2) appendices on our Outreach plans

Vivian – Restructured and added appendix E. & F. We will bring all Outreach together in one place.

Ben - Tech panel has asked for an Outreach plan moving forward into implementation – meetings, postcards, newsletter, Ads, mailers etc. This Appendix will be an actual Outreach plan

Jeff Schibel – Can this Outreach plan ebb and flow as move forward?

Ben – Yes. Vivian, please add that we will modify as we move forward into implementation

Garith/Elsa – Do we need it reviewed by the group?

Vivian – This info is a little spread out – this will pull all the info together into one area to make a stronger statement on outreach. It will be easier to review then.

John Stuhlmeiller - A couple of things to remember; a one-page document/cover sheet adding the paragraph that VSP was “tasked to do... we have met it by the plan”. Here’s our overview etc. Do the hard work in the beginning ie: Overview First.

Vivian – We are working on that now

Ben - We are adding an appendix for Outreach, making sure overview is up front with the plan with Outreach appendix separate with all outreach data – past and future

MEASURABLE BENCHMARKS

8. Added a reference to appendix C “Measurable Benchmarks. No change but clearing up the message.

Ben – These will be comparable differences – before the conservation practice and what happened later.

Jason Kuntz – Will there be reporting?

Ben – Yes, every (2) years in the follow-up

TECH PANEL COMMENTS

10. Section 5.1 - Adding more specific details from Watershed plans by calling out specific water quality plans into the workplan

11. Section 5.1-Calculating the percentage of ag producers to work with.

Ben- Franklin county currently trying for 10% or 70 producers per year but has decided to not to commit to a number in the Workplan. Lincoln county has 900 farms with roughly 500 producers. These numbers came from FSA records. Can LCCD do 10 % or 50 a year?

Elsa – Yes, Probably. How do we get credit for the hobby farmer? **Keith Schafer** – Wouldn't we want to start with the larger producers? **Ben** – We will have the larger producers already captured by using NRCS/FSA numbers.

12. Section 5.3 and 5.4 – Add wetland data to monitoring methods for aquatic habitat.

We will be adding the following additional data to monitoring methods for wetlands in sSection5.3 and Table 5-10: U. S. department of Agriculture Natural Resources Inventory monitoring results and the National Wetland Inventory through U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

13. Section 6.2.1- Add discussion on how critical areas on agricultural lands will be documented through farm stewardship plans and implementation.

Revise as follows: LCCD will prepare biennial work plans that incorporate public-sector activities to be implemented to achieve VSP outreach and technical assistance objectives and identify plans for working with the private sector to capture information about practices put in place and presence of critical areas through its efforts.

End of comments/changes matrix

Ben - Are you (work group) comfortable in approving the plan as is or do you want more time to review? **Vivian** - To summarize – we will develop the Outreach appendix and add more to the goals of outreach as early as next week

Garith Krause - I'm good to go now

Keith Schafer - I'm good too if there is availability to make changes after the updates are done

Mark Stedman - Ben/Elsa are we good with submitting on March 1?

Ben - We could do a call-in/webex meeting on February 27

Jason Kuntz - Small edit – pg. 19 add blue grouse or common grouse to match pg. 25 and pg. 49. I also have NRCS Leaflets on Sharptail Grouse we can add to document. I will send to Val to be included. I think things look good with streams etc. Whitman's needs work and we are working with them. We'll work with Val & Elsa moving forward to help with updates on maps etc with Courtney at the county. Just wanted to mention that things are covered pretty well.

Ben - If there are no other comments are you ready to conditionally approve the Workplan?

Tom Harding - So moved

Mark Stedman - 2nd

Ben - No one opposes? Hearing none the Work Plan is Conditionally Approved!

Ben/Mark - Big thanks to everyone for all their hard work. Elsa will meet on March 5th with the County commissioners for an informal review.

Ben - We will submit to the Technical Panel on March 1, with a formal review with the Tech Panel in Olympia on March 30, with an additional meeting on April 27. Hopefully we will have comments back by April 10.

John Stuhmiller - Be aware of a least one or 2 meetings for the Work Group after the March 30 Tech Panel meeting with very little time to respond.

Ben - Any other final comment? Val will email everyone on the details for the webex/call-in meeting on Feb. 27th. Meeting adjourned at 2:55PM

Next Steps:

Webex/Call in meeting Feb 27th 1-3PM

Attendees:

Workgroup members:

Ben Floyd

Jeff Schibel

Tom Harding

Garith Krause

Val Vissia

Elsa Bowen

Keith Schafer

Mark Stedman

Kristen Balko

Other Attendees:

Vivian Erickson-phone

John Small-phone

Jason Kunz-phone

Ron Mielke-phone

Eddie Johnson - phone

Heather Kosaka - phone

John Stuhmiller - phone