

Walla Walla County

VSP Work Group

March 5th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: March 5th, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. Via: Zoom and in person

Work Group Members Present:

David Haire, CTUIR

Judith Johnson, Kooskooskie Commons

Lindsey Williams, WWCC

Brian Burns, TSS

Phil Neumann, Mainstem Malt

Ryan Rea, Ag. Community

Tom Schirm, WDFW ex-officio

Absent: Randy Bright, Ag. Community

Also present: Grant Traynor, Jenny Freer, Annie Byerley, Renee Hadley of WWCCD; Dana Sheedy, CTUIR

The meeting began with an invitation for public comments. There were none.

Approval of meeting minutes: After review, **Williams motioned and Neumann seconded to approve the December 2023 minutes; motion passed.**

New or interested work group members: None at this time.

VSP Action Map: Traynor showed the workgroup MapSeed and described the benefits and concerns with using this map as a monitoring device. One third of VSP programs in Washington State are using MapSeed. The workgroup concluded that this would be worth looking into to see if it is the right approach for our area. Follow-up will be had at a later time.

Project Approvals:

- Lower Walla Walla habitat riparian project: This is west of Detour Rd containing fish and wildlife habitat and possible wetlands. Looking to plant in an old pasture with willow stakes on opposite side of HOA horse trail. This proposed project has 1.5 acres with a cost budget of \$18,200.
- Chamberlain riparian project: This project encompasses 2.75 acres for partial and full plantings, along with blackberry control. The cost for this project would be \$17,159.
- Screens and Meters: There are six landowners in need of replacements. Five need one or the other and the sixth needs eight meters and two screens. These meters happen to be located in the dry creek irrigation district.

Williams motioned and Neumann seconded to approve apply for funding for all three projects; motion passed.

VSP project updates: Traynor updated the work group on projects:

- Ohima Rd Riparian – Contractor has started weed control. Seeding will take place mid-month. Project should be completed by April.
- Mojonnier Rd Riparian – Awaiting funds.
- Lower Waitsburg Rd Riparian – Awaiting funds.

- Yellowhawk Riparian – Awaiting funds but is partially funded through ClimeTime and the WWPS to do some planting and education.

Program Updates: Traynor presented that verifying screens and meters prompted a response from twenty-five landowners. WWCCD got permission to go out and visit about 160 wetland sites to verify presence/absence for more accurate maps. Traynor noted that WWCCD is struggling to adaptively manage monitoring for Frequently Flooded Areas and Geologically Hazardous Areas, as time/resource/money constraints make it difficult to cover their large areas. A draft VSP monitoring guide will be available in April for review. There is fish passage barrier training on April 23 & 24 with DFW for fish passage barriers at WWCC.

Partner Updates:

D. Haire, CTUIR: will be retiring in eight days.

D. Sheedy, CTUIR: worked on a drought plan but data is limited.

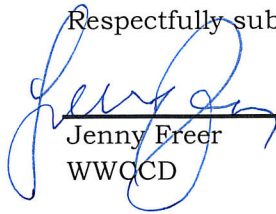
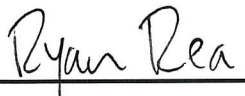
P. Neumann: shared they received approval for a building at the port of Columbia which makes them eligible for funding through the state of Washington.

L. Williams, WWCC: WWCC is looking to fill many positions.

R. Rea, Ag community: predicts that this will be an okay year for the ag community. Soil sampling was completed last week on this farm.

Williams motioned and Neumann seconded to end the meeting at 5:35 pm; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

  Ryan Rea 6/4/24

Jenny Freer
WWCCD

David Haire
Vice-chair

Next meeting: June 4th 2024 at 4 pm