

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2017

I. Call to order

Roland Schirman called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 1:00 PM on December 14, 2017 at the Columbia County Planning office.

II. Attendance

Chair Roland Schirman, Meagan Bailey, Greg Abramson, Don Brigham, Tom Schirm, Marty Hall, Justin Pearson, Terry Bruegman, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Norm Passmore

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved as is.

IV. Agenda items

A. General Concerns and/or Issues

- i. Question: is there any rule of thumb on what should be included within the main plan and the appendices?—There is not; each plan will be different and is entirely up to the request of the Work Group and jurisdiction.
- ii. Concern: Is the outreach we have completed been effective at reaching a variety of members of the public?—Unsure; Don Brigham and Meagan Bailey will craft a flyer that can be delivered to various other work groups to spread more information about the plan, goals, etc.

B. Update from State VSP

- i. Consultant Don Brigham recently attended a VSP workshop in Spokane, Washington. The following subject items were discussed at this meeting:
 - a. The State does not want to see a plan that was written for them; it should be written for the jurisdiction by the work group; “plan for the user”.
 - b. Columbia County should emphasis the uniqueness of the area and the plan; the State wants to see that within the plan.
 - c. Specific details on who was in the Work Group should be listed within the plan, and explain how the individuals present effectively represented the community.
 - d. There should be specific acknowledgements on monitoring limitations, explaining how there are limitations on certain monitoring procedures; it should be considered an ongoing and flexible tool.

- e. Within Columbia County, mapping shows a high soil erosion potential throughout the entirety; however, the State VSP is aware that if a farmer is working that land, that chance of erosion goes down tremendously—it is still present, but unlikely.

C. Review of draft Chapter 4 comments from the November meeting

- i. The star graphics on page 6 and page 7 should be removed; to the general user, it may be confusing on what conservation practice is more effective
- ii. Under figure 4-2 and 4-3, language should be added to state the fact that this information does not include private operations/conservations practices.
- iii. Table 4-3 has yet to be completed; there is a chance the information from that table will be combined a different table. Justin Pearson and Terry Bruegman will follow up with a table proposal for the plan.
- iv. Section 4.2.3: Justin Pearson has the numbers for this section and will be working on compiling data for the plan. Discussion on CRP and that there is a need for a “credit” to be counted; what will happen if acreage is removed from CRP? There should be a statement added regarding CRP and indication that federal funding is likely to end.

D. Review and discussion of draft Chapter 5 of Work Plan

- i. Page 1—we want to revisit the introduction as a whole and determine if this information is necessary or if it’s repetitive.
- ii. Section 5.21—correct to ‘5.2.1’
- iii. Page 4-5—correct the dates on the blue boxes to 2011.
- iv. Section 5.3—this section is lifted from Whitman County; indicators are processes that are done post-plan adoption and pre-five year monitoring; will re-visit and review in its’ entirety; should include caveat that we are only able to review indicators that are occurring on private lands
- v. Page 8—fix bullet indentation.
- vi. Table 5-8—under water quality, 4th bullet: correct spelling on ‘agriculture’
- vii. Page 14-15—correct graph to include all information on one page.

Adjournment

Roland Schirman adjourned the meeting at 2:42PM

Next meeting: January 10, 2018 @ 1:30PM in the Delaney Building

Minutes submitted by: Meagan Bailey