

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2018

I. Call to order

Roland Schirman called to order the regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 1:30 PM February 14, 2018.

II. Attendance

Meagan Bailey, Dena Martin, Don Brigham, Tom Schirm, Justin Pearson, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Norm Passmore, Terry Bruegman, Roland Schirman

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved as is.

IV. Agenda items

A. General Concerns and/or Issues

- i. Roland requested that someone contact Eric Thorn and Scott Magill to see if they still wish to be involved with the committee.
- ii. Discussed the possibility of incentivizing VSP program and/or survey participation. Commissioner Passmore will check to see if tax breaks are a possibility for program participants.

B. Update from State VSP

- i. Don gave an update on deadlines. The Tech Panel deadline is July 20 and Don presented a suggested timeline. With the Plan near completion, the committee decided to cancel the Feb. 24 meeting to allow Don adequate time to prepare for submission. The committee will perform a Plan review at the March 14, 1:30 p.m. meeting. A public meeting will be scheduled to present the Plan on Thurs., March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Delany Building or the Youth Building, depending on availability. Meagan/Dena will advertise the public meeting and notify the committee of the location.

C. Review of Chapter 4

- i. Reviewed and accepted previous changes to Chapter 4.

D. Review of Chapter 5

- i. Reviewed previous changes

- ii. Table 5.5 → General discussion regarding the information within this table; suggested adding math formula to the table; requested a clarification of what headings mean and asked Don to confirm that numbers track correctly from table 5.4 to 5.5; remove CD annotation if their info is not present within the table. Don will work up alternatives to make the table more clear
- iii. Table 5-10 → Questioned whether the Adaptive Management Trigger heading should be a decreasing percentage (90%), rather than increasing (120%). Don will review and will verify that numbers correspond to Table 5-5
- iv. Section 5.9 → Shift title to same page as table.

E. Individual Stewardship Plans (ISP)

- i. General discussion regarding ISP surveys, including survey length and how surveys will be administered.
- ii. Reviewed an 8-page survey developed by Don and a 1-page survey developed by Roland. Meagan will work up a broad-based survey option for the next meeting.
- iii. Discussion regarding whether or not survey information is truly confidential, especially in the case of a public records requests.
- iv. Requested that the word County be struck when referring to the Columbia Conservation District; requested wording be changed from “NRCS” to “USDA;” refer to funding as “federal, state, or self-funded,” remove a statement that the District will hold information in confidentiality. Terry/Justin will look into confidentiality concerns.

V. Adjournment

Roland Schirman adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Next meeting: March 14, 2018 @ 1:30 p.m. in the Delany Building

Public meeting: March 22, 2018 @ 7 p.m. in the Delany Building or Youth Building

Minutes submitted by: Dena Martin