

Grant County VSP WG Meeting January 23, 2025

CBCD Board Room; Zoom

10:00 Am-12:00 PM

Attendees: Jim Anderson Cook (Grant County Development), Matt Harris (WA Potato Commission), Dan Dormaier, John Preston, Eric Pentico (WDFW)

CBCD Staff: Dinah Rouleau, Kaley Wisher, Wade Haughton, Britton Baker, Harold Crose, Deanna Elliott

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by K. Wisher at 10:03 AM.

Public Comment: None

Approval of October 2024, Quarterly Grant VSP Meeting Minutes: Correction – None

Motion by J Preston to accept the Quarterly Grant VSP Meeting Minutes, as presented, seconded by H Crose, motion carries.

Staffing Updates: - Chauna Carlson has joined the district and will provide budget information for Grant VSP quarterly meetings.

Implementation Budget - The budget was updated to reflect through Dec 30, 2024. Technical assistance for VSP and Washington State Conservation Commission is the targeted support of the conservation district to development and support conservation concerns or needs within the boundaries of the district.

VSP Cost Share Budget: D. Rouleau, additional comments from W. Haughton.

Cost Share Projects: Presented by D. Rouleau, additional comments from W. Haughton

J. Myrick: Motion Carries

Project: Irrigation Pipeline, Irrigation Water Management

Cost share amount: \$5,500. Total cost of the project is \$11,000

Motion: H. Crose

2nd: D. Dormaier

D. Litowitz: Motion Carries

Project: Wheel line to pivot, Irrigation Water Management. Irrigation efficiency increases from 60% to 85%,

Cost share amount: \$100k. Total cost of the project is \$370k

Motion: H. Crose

2nd: J. Preston

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VSP 5-year reporting – D. Elliott: Grant County VSP’s 5-year report is due December 2025. The Grant VSP team is actively participating in discussions on the new 5-year report template development.

VSP Priority Watershed: D. Rouleau, W. Haughton, and D. Elliott presented on necessity of designating priority watersheds for Grant County VSP.

Discussion: The work group will have the ability to change the priority watershed designation in the future.

Motion to nominate Moses Coulee, Grand Coulee, Upper Crab-Wilson Coulee, Lower Crab, and Esquatzel Coulee Watershed in Grant County as priority.

Motion: J Preston

2nd: H Crose

Motion carries

Individual Stewardship Plans (ISP) – B. Baker: Currently 1 plan is in development and 1 plan has been completed in the Lower Crab Watershed. 1 Plan was completed in the Upper Crab-Wilson watershed.

Monitoring Plan – B. Baker provided an update on monitoring plan implementation. Fall 2024 a total of 10 samples were collected for VSP monitoring efforts with 6 being viable. 5 new well locations will be added to the monitoring program from Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program’s RCPP’s.

Wells will be tested bi-monthly beginning in February 2025. A survey will be developed to track the participants inputs and management.

D. Elliott provided an update on the Groundwater Monitoring website in development.

Shrub-Steppe Monitoring: Provided by K. Wisher.

P24-0246 voted into County Code on November 12th, 2024. Grazing is being considered as an appropriate land use for mitigation sites.

CBCD’s VSP team is working with WDFW, Dr. Amanda Stahl, and neighboring VSP districts to develop benchmarks for shrub-steppe.

OGWRP Update – H. Crose provided an update on OGWRP.

EL 22.1 system is 100% designed. The project completion date is unknown.

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EL 11.8 system is 100% designed. The project completion date is unknown.

WDFW Listed Species Update: K. Wisher presented information on the status of Monarch Butterfly and Suckley's Bumblebee proposed endangered species listings. VSP plans to incentivize habitat plantings for pollinator species by developing new outreach and education materials for Individual Stewardship Plans and adding pollinator habitat as a suggested practice when appropriate.

Discussion: Mike Poteet has joined the WSCC team as our new VSP Coordinator. Mike brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. We expect a visit from him soon.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by K. Wisher at 11:24 AM.

Next Meeting will be April 24, 2025, and will be a hybrid meeting at CBCD's boardroom