

**Grant County VSP WG Meeting February 8th, 2024**  
**Remote Via Zoom**  
**10:00 Am-12:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Sam Krautscheid, Dan Dormier, Chris Young, Eric Pentico, Sean Williams, Chealsea Wilson, John Preston

**CBCD Staff:** Deanna Elliott, Elliott DeLong, Kristina Ribellia, Harold Crose, Britton Baker

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by D. Elliott at 10:03 AM.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of October 2023, Quarterly Grant VSP Meeting Minutes:** Correction – None

*Motion by H. Crose to accept the Quarterly Grant VSP Meeting Minutes, as presented, seconded by C. Young, S. Krautscheid abstains, motion carries.*

**Reports: - None**

**Budget -** The budget was updated to reflect through December 2023. 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.

**Individual Stewardship Plans (ISP) -** Currently 11 ISPs are in the process of completion. The current focus is along the Lower Crab Creek Area. The plans account for 10,850 acres within the VSP program. The VSP breakdown totals 1,084 acres in the aquifer, 10,789 acres of geologically hazardous, 173 acres of frequently flooded, 66 acres of wildlife habitat and 5 acres of wetlands.

**Mobile Drip Irrigation -** Mobile drip irrigation (MDI) drags drip tubing with in-line emitters behind a center pivot. MDI could benefit growers if they have inadequate water, strained crop production and runoff problems that make irrigation difficult. Currently being used in the basin and is likely to be a practice that is beneficial with water constraints and energy savings. CBCD staff have seen the demonstration on the the efficiency and will focus on similar systems for use for producers in the OGWRP.

**OGWRP -** A plan for a legislative trip to Washington DC is set for May. Contracting work for the 84.6 and 84.7 with design reviews. The work on the PL-566 plan continues and will be important in the development of future RCPPs and future staffing. CBCD will continue to work with ECBID and DOE to complete the project. CBCD has demonstrated its capacity and valuable partner to OGWRP producers.

**Monitoring Plan -** Columbia Basin Conservation District is tasked with developing a monitoring plan for Grant County as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. The monitoring program will look at metrics to determine the overall “success” of the Voluntary program. Monitoring has been limited to the pre implementation for assessment purposes.

**Water Banking –** The county is working with local municipalities to provide some level of security for the future water needs of the county. Currently water is a concern across the county and there is unlikely to be a fix unless issues are addressed as part of a sole source aquifer.

**Shrub Steppe Mitigation -** The Columbia Basin has a very distinct and unique ecosystem. Currently there is need to preserve the Shrub steppe in the county however, there is a concern with site solar panels and other infrastructure. There needs to be an alternative methodology to determine which projects should be sited. The county is working on a property bank to act as a reserve for the program.

**Staff Training –** CBCD staff are working on training to improve and maintain capacity to continue the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by D. Elliott at 10:51 PM.

Next Meeting will be in April 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting with a location to be determined.