

Adams County VSP WG meeting October 5, 2023
East Columbia Basin Irrigation District office,
55 N 8th Ave, Othello, WA 99344, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Attendance: Andie Lorenz, Eric Pentico, Matt Harris, Lynn Olsen,
Jake Wollman Jr, David Leatherman

CBCD Staff: Deanna Elliott, Elliott DeLong, Kaley Wisher, Dinah Rouleau,
Harold Crose, Britton Baker, Cari Cortez

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by D. Elliott at 10:01 AM.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Minutes from July 2024 read and accepted by the Adams VSP members in attendance:

Reports:

Quarterly Reports - Quarterly reports no longer a required deliverable for VSP at a state level as of August 22, 2023. Columbia Basin Conservation District will continue to issue quarterly reports starting after January 2024 to maintain continuity and provide a.

Two-Year Report – The Two-year report was submitted August 30, 2023. The report draft was sent out via email asking for comment prior to submission, none was received. Going forward the report will not be submitted but provided to the working group.

Budget:

The proposed budget was proposed to match the previous years however, there are several unknowns previously. Currently the Proposed budget requires approval by the working group in order to be funded. The supplemental funding source from the Washington State Conservation Commission for VSP cost share is separate from the standard VSP cost share funds. The working group has approved the budget for submission to the WSCC as well as the proposed Supplement cost share funds.

Cost Share

Paul Booker is an Adams County grower that runs cattle above Scootney Reservoir. Currently has a cost share from the previous biennium for offsite watering from Franklin Cd and would like to continue the fencing and water onto Adams County side. There would be two facilities for watering without the need for much engineering or equipment since it was previously completed by Franklin CD. The plan would include the entirety of the area in use in Adams County. Working Group debated project and approved the cost share as presented.

OGWRP

Staff are working to schedule the first set of producers' contracts in the coming weeks. There is potential for working with growers for assistance on lateral development and funding, however, CBCD is short on staffing with the recent departures. The work may be something to explore in the future depending on the development of future RCPPs and future staffing.

Outreach

CBCD & Farm Service Agency (FSA) are working to improve communication and develop outreach update and VSP outreach materials for the USDA offices. Currently there is untapped interest regarding the VSP program that could prove beneficial for the group.

Dragon Line

Direct irrigation through the conversion of sprinklers to micro sprinkler level efficiency. Currently being used in the basin and is likely to be a practice that is beneficial with water constraints in the near future. CBCD staff have seen the demonstration and literature to show the efficiency and will likely continue to monitor and focus on similar systems for use for producers in the County and OGWRP specifically.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned by D. Elliott at 12:04 PM. Next Meeting to occur late January 2024 and will be a remote virtual meeting due to likely weather constraints.