

Minutes
Work Group
Spokane County Voluntary Stewardship Program
September 18, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Work Group Members Present: Casey Flanagan, Doug Greenlund, Ty Meyer, Jay Cronk, David Boleneus, Alene Linstrand, Kevin Paulson

Staff: Lindsay Chutas, Walt Edelen, Doug Phelps

Facilitator: Andy Dunau

Handouts: August Minutes, Today's Agenda, Planning Update

Welcome, Introductions, Minutes and Announcements: Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room.

Minutes:

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Ty motioned to accept the minutes and Jay seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Biennium Report Update

The group was informed that the two-year report has been accepted. Andy clarified that the state Technical Panel only evaluates and reviews the 5-year reports. The 5-year report is due April 22, 2021.

Alene reminded the group that the official name of the group she represents is Spokane Cattlemen. It was incorrectly listed in the two-year report as The Spokane Cattlemen's Association. She then asked a few questions:

- What are the plans for permanent pastureland and what can VSP do?
 - Answer: VSP is concerned with the intersects between critical areas and ag lands. As part of work plan priorities, the VSP has called out livestock as a priority and is looking for opportunities to work with people to improve their stewardship in this arena.
- What is a waste storage facility?
 - Answer: A manure management facility to help landowners manage their animal waste.
- Can people participate in the South Spokane Farm Corridor, and what does it take to be listed?
 - Answer: Yes, Doug will follow-up with Alene.

- Why do we measure vegetative change when shadows are present instead of the fall after leaves have been dropped?
 - Answer: Because it's a change in greenness. Issues regarding shadow are addressed in modeling and are part of ground truthing model inputs.

Story Mapping

Doug took the group through current iteration of the story map web site. Group comments for further development included:

- Add security feature that enables staff to approve projects and comments being added.
- Add a feature that promotes connecting with staff on other projects not listed or general technical assistance.
- Add a general “Do you have any questions?” field
- Make adding contact information mandatory so that we can follow up with users to verify posted info
- Sizing of pins.

Doug will continue to work with developer and continue adding projects. The web site is expected to go live this fall.

Planning Update

Doug and Andy created a task and status list to guide implementation activities through submission of the 5-year report due in April 2021. The group reviewed these tasks with an eye toward prioritizing staff activities.

Tasks fall into the following categories:

Technical Assistance and Outreach:

- Tools
- New Project Development
- Outreach and Recruitment

Monitoring

- Aerial Imagery
- GIS Mapping
- Conservation Practice Database
- Stewardship Plan Inventory
- Edge of Field Monitoring

Regulatory and Policy Activity

- Related Agency Work
- Spokane Comprehensive Plan Updates
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- RCPP Renewal Application
- Long-term Commodity Buffer Support
- Evaluate Carbon Credit Opportunity
- Country of Origin Labeling

Administrative

- 2019-2020 Budget Update
- Work Group Charter Update

Current priorities are:

- Doug will set up three meetings to discuss VSP network and announce what kind of assistance we can offer through the SCD and VSP.
- Doug will continue development of stewardship plan inventory and placement of projects in story mapping web site.
- Lindsay will continue to pursue with county acquisition of digital surface model data to support aerial imagery monitoring.
- Walt and Andy will work on Charter and Budget updates.
- Staff will investigate placement of ads in producer newsletters.
- Staff to continue to develop newsletter stories.
- Staff will follow up with proposed Spokane County Comprehensive Plan changes related to Urban Growth Area. This may include writing letter.

Action Items and Closing:

The next meeting was set for October 9, 2019 and the following meeting November 13, 2019. Andy thanked everyone for coming. The group discussed skipping the December meeting. There were no further comments and the meeting adjourned.