

“It is the intent of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 to: (a) Promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in the state of Washington and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses¹...”

AGENDA
Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program
THURSDAY, August 17, 2017
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

North Yakima Conservation District
1606 Perry St # C, Yakima, WA 98902

1. Welcome and Introductions – Facilitator, All
2. Public Comment
3. Review Changes to Work Plan from August 3 meeting
4. Review proposed implementation roles and budget.

See Chapter 8 and Appendix G for implementation roles. There are some blanks to fill. As discussed at a previous meeting, Lisa has worked with Mike Tobin and Laurie Crowe on preparing a proposed implementation budget. We will review and discuss the budget and get feedback from the workgroup. Some of the items can be paid for out of the \$220,000 allocated to the Yakima VSP Workgroup for the current (new) biennium 2017-2019.

5. Consider Recommending Approval of Work Plan – Forwarding to Conservation Commission
 - Review ground rules and voting eligibility (hoping for consensus recommendation)
 - Proposed language for a motion: ““Move to forward this draft work plan, as discussed and amended today, to the Washington State Conservation Commission.”
6. Next Steps and Adjourn
 - Implementation roles and responsibilities
 - Adjourn

Attachments:

- a. Download link (see e-mail)
- b. Agenda
- c. Final meeting notes from August 3

¹ RCW 36.70A.700(2)(a)

Contents of a VSP Work Plan
RCW 36.70A.720 (1)

(1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW 36.70A.715 must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

(a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

(b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

(c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;

(d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;

(e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

(f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;

(g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;

(h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

(i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

(j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium;

(k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

(l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.