

Minutes
Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Tuesday September 29, 2020
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview.

Meeting was conducted via Zoom in video and by phone. Chairman Gail Thornton was unavailable and Michael Tobin from the NYCD took lead to help administratively with the meeting. Participants included: Stuart Crane, Scott Downes, Frank Hendrix, Frank Lyall, John Marvin, David Taylor, and Kerry Turley.

Michael encouraged participants to continue to bring others into the Work Group to ensure that proper representation is achieved.

2. Review June 2020 meeting minutes

Michael Tobin asked the Work Group Members for approval of the June 2020 meeting minutes. By consensus, the Work Group approved the minutes.

3. Public Comment

None

4. 5-Year Report

Lisa Grueter with BERK Consulting took lead of the meeting to review the first draft of the monitoring report, and walked through the meeting materials.

Work Group comments included:

- **Changes in irrigation could change artificial wetlands or riparian areas. Not a static situation; unintended consequence.**
- **To identify areas of change in riparian and wetlands where there is limited mapping information, there could be some information from Yakima County permits or code enforcement.**
- **On shrub-steppe, the areas of gain/loss in shrub and grass could be more complete than the WDFW shrub-steppe data.**
- **About native cover, could look at plant sales, GS Long; growers are diversifying on fence lines. Ask WSDA about whether their inventory crews can note this.**
- **Regarding pollinators and cover crops, have tried to maintain native bees. Requires water. Difficult.**
- **Ben Silver with BERK Consulting shared an interactive map illustrating the monitoring results. Mike Tobin and Rodney Heit shared conservation practices related to fish passage, aquifer protection, and others.**

5. Administrative Items

- **NYCD Report on Outreach & Cost Shares**
Michael Tobin highlighted the NYCD focus on Wenas basin for outreach and practices. COVID-19 issues are having a direct impact on education and direct work with landowners.

- SYCD Report on Outreach & Cost Shares
Rodney Heit described developing a simple flier about VSP that targets specific resource concerns. Checklist is complex and requires one on one discussions.

6. Next Steps and Adjourn

The Yakima Work Group is scheduled to meet next on October 27, 2020 from 1-4 if there is new information to share including a meeting with shrub-steppe experts to review mapping and available conservation practice data from districts and other sources. The State Conservation Commission is also soon to publish the new report template.

The last scheduled meeting for 2020 is on December 29, 2020 from 1-4 pm at which time Yakima County's final 5-year report will be finalized for submission.

Meeting adjourned