

Minutes
Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Tuesday June 30, 2020
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview.

Meeting was conducted virtually using phone in and Zoom formats, Chairman Gail Thornton was unavailable so Michael Tobin from the NYCD took lead to help administratively with the meeting. Zoom participants were able to see each so no introductions were conducted. Verifications of phone numbers were done to identify additional participants. Lisa Grueter with BERK Consulting reviewed the agenda with all.

2. Review December 2019 meeting minutes

Michael Tobin asked the Work Group Members for approval of the December 2019 meeting minutes. Eric Olson moved to approve the December 17, 2019 VSP Work Group minutes, seconded by Frank Lyall, motion approved.

3. Review VSP membership, additions etc...

Michael Tobin reminded the Work Group Member that our ground rules have requirements for participation but due to the COVID-19 issue we should be lacks on this until we are able to conduct business in person. Michael urged the participants to continue to bring others into the Work Group to ensure that proper representation is achieved.

4. Public Comment

None

5. 5-Year Report

Lisa Grueter with BERK Consulting took lead of the meeting to discuss and present information for review and input. She discussed the on-going development of the “guidelines for the 5-year report” from the State committee. The Work Group followed the Memorandum that was provided as a guide to address the issues below.

- **Scope and Schedule of the Yakima County 5-year report**
- **SCC Guidance on the 5-year report format and expectations**
- **Share Draft Analysis developed by BERK Consulting for the Yakima County 5-year report including a presentation by Matt Stevenson on the needs related to large scale interpretation of shrub-steppe habitats.**
 - **Agriculture Viability discussed and presented as examples**
 - **Agriculture Intersect discussed and presented as examples**
 - **Next Steps: Vetting Results in Field by TSP providers & Technical Experts**

6. Administrative Items

- **NYCD Report on Outreach & Cost Shares,**

Michael Tobin highlighted for the Work Group some of the activities and efforts to obtain grants to develop larger projects that would move VSP activities in the Wenas Watershed forward. Some early action projects have been completed although not using VSP cost-share. Mike reported that little to no funds are currently available for cost-share and external sources need to be relied on at this time. COVID-19 issues are having a direct impact on education and direct work with landowners. Mike discussed some of the other areas within NYCD where on-going activities are still continuing but with limits due to COVID-19.

- **SYCD Report on Outreach & Cost Shares**

Due to technical issues Staff from SYCD had been dis-connected and could not get back on the meeting to present their activities to the Work Group

7. Next Steps and Adjourn

Michael Tobin and Lisa Grueter discussed the potential need for an additional meeting to review and approve the 5-year report since we are dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. The Yakima Work Group is scheduled to meet next (quarterly schedule) on September 29, 2020 from 1-4 pm. The Work Group tentatively scheduled an additional meeting if needed for October 27, 2020 from 1-4. 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