

July 2018 VSP Newsletter

This is the monthly installment of a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) newsletter. Please sign up to receive the newsletter [here](#). Feedback is welcome – please direct it to [Bill Eller](#).

VSP QUARTERLY REPORT DUE THIS MONTH: The [VSP quarterly report](#) is due every quarter as a deliverable in the contract between the Commission and each of the 27 VSP counties. If you are the responsible party for the VSP contract in your county, please remember to set a reminder for yourself to timely submit the quarterly report.

The quarterly report and schedule for submittal can be found on the “[Counties and Work Groups](#)” page of the Commission’s VSP web page, under the tab called “Reporting.” It can also be found on the [quarterly report form](#) itself.

For your convenience, the remaining quarterly report schedule is reproduced below:

Period of April 1 – June 30, 2018 – Due July 10, 2018

Period of July 1 – September 30, 2018 – **Due October 10, 2018**

Period of October 1 – December 31, 2018 – **Due January 10, 2019**

Period of January 1 – March 31, 2019 – **Due April 10, 2019**

Period of April 1 – June 30, 2019 – **Due July 10, 2019**

GARFIELD AND MASON COUNTY VSP WORK PLANS APPROVED: Both Garfield and Mason County’s VSP work plans were approved by the Technical Panel on June 19, 2018. VSP work plans can be found on the Commission’s VSP web page [here](#). Congratulations to both Garfield and Mason County’s work groups for their hard work and effort!

LEWIS, GRAYS HARBOR, OKANOGAN, ADAMS, AND COWLITZ COUNTIES SUBMIT WORK PLANS TO THE COMMISSION: Both Lewis County and Grays Harbor County submitted their VSP work plans to the Commission on June 20, 2018. The

public is invited to comment on any VSP work plan submitted to the VSP Technical Panel within 14 days of submittal. The public has until July 5, 2018 to comment on the Lewis and Grays Harbor County plans. Both Okanogan County and Cowlitz County submitted their work plans to the Commission on June 22, 2018. The public has until July 9, 2018 to comment on the Okanogan County and Cowlitz County plans. Adams County submitted their work plan to the Commission on June 29, 2018. The public has until July 13, 2018 to comment on the Adams County plan. The public can use this public comment [form](#) to capture any comments made. The work plan can be accessed from the Commission's VSP web page [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov or by phone at 509-385-7512.

SUBMITTAL OF VSP WORK PLANS TO THE COMMISSION: There are six counties whose work plans are in review by the Technical Panel (Columbia, Cowlitz, Okanogan, Grays Harbor, Adams and Lewis). That leaves just three counties left to submit work plans to the Commission (Pend Oreille, Ferry and Spokane). Due dates to submit work plans for the remaining three counties are as follows:

Pend Oreille – August 2, 2018

Ferry – September 14, 2018

Spokane – October 22, 2018

The Commission has set up a schedule for the formal submittal of VSP work plans. Counties wishing to formally submit work plans must contact [Bill Eller](#) at the Commission before submitting their work plans so that the plan can be assigned in the schedule. If you have not already done so, please contact [Bill Eller](#) at 509-385-7512 or by email at beller@scc.wa.gov to schedule the submittal of your county's work plan.

Action by Work Group on Work Plan: Remember, the action the VSP work group needs to take in sending the work plan to the Commission is that the work group should move to submit the work plan to the Commission and VSP Technical Panel, not “approve” the work plan.

Technical Panel Review Process: The Technical Panel typically has at least two meetings during the review process. The first meeting is the first time the Technical Panel has an opportunity to discuss the work plan amongst themselves as they can only talk about the plans amongst themselves during an open public meeting. They also make oral comments on the work plan during that initial meeting. A representative from the submitting work group is asked to attend and make a brief presentation (30 minutes) on the work plan goals and benchmarks. After that initial meeting, the Technical Panel

members work to craft written agency comments that are compiled by the Commission and supplied back to the work group that submitted the plan. Then, at the next Technical Panel meeting on the work plan, the Technical Panel considers the work plan in light of the written comments the members made. Sometimes more than two meetings are needed to complete the review process.

SAC MEETS TO DISCUSS A POLICY ADVISORY: The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) will hold a meeting on July 25, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm to discuss a policy advisory they are working on – Policy Advisory 04-18 regarding how VSP and critical area ordinances apply to “new” agriculture. The SAC has been working on this policy advisory for the last few months and will use this meeting for further discussion. The public is welcome to attend in person or by webinar. The [agenda](#) has been posted on the [SAC web page](#), and is available by direct link here. The meeting will take place at the Conservation Commission, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA. It will also be available by webinar. To register for the webinar, please use this [link](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8632342047701247745): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8632342047701247745>

UPCOMING JOINT MEETINGS OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The VSP Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee continue to update their meeting schedules. The most complete and up-to-date meeting schedule and meeting agendas can always be found on the [Technical Panel web page](#) and the [Statewide Advisory Committee web page](#). All meetings will be held at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516, unless otherwise noted. Each meeting is also available by webinar. To register for the webinar, please use the link below:

Joint Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee meeting **on July 27, 2018 at 8:00 AM PST** at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2634733713798797059>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

VSP FY 19-21 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT – IMPLEMENTATION BUDGETS REQUESTED: Conservation Commission staff are currently working to put together budget decision packages (“BDP”) as per the process outlined by the Office of Financial Management. One of those BDP’s is for VSP. Some of you have already created budgets in anticipation of FY 19-21 funding. We have reviewed all submitted work plans and gathered any implementation budgets for FY 19-21 in them. **We would request that any county or VSP technical assistance provider that has created an**

implementation budget for FY 19-21 to send a copy to Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov so it can be tallied with the other budgets and prepared for the BDP. Even if you've included a budget in an approved work plan, sending an additional copy of it would serve to double-check that the figures already gathered are correct. There is no guarantee of funding at a requested level or for an identified need, but this is why we need the budgets so we can present that level and/or need to the legislature in our VSP BDP. **BDP's are due in early August, so please send any budgets you might have created by the end of July.** We understand some of you are still in the planning stage, and we will take that into account in our BDP, but having as many identified VSP implementation budgets as possible will add more specificity to our BDP. Budgetary categories we've identified include Education, Outreach & Technical Assistance, Monitoring, Reporting & Adaptive Management, Work Group Coordination, Project Implementation, County Administrative / Financial costs, and Identified FTE (employees).

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