

## April 2017 VSP Newsletter

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

### CHELAN COUNTY VSP WORK PLAN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION:

Chelan County submitted their VSP work plan to the Commission on March 27, 2017. The public is invited to comment on any VSP work plan submitted to the VSP Technical Panel within 14 days of submittal. 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](#) or through a direct link to the work plan [here](#).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL:** At its March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Technical Panel set a number of additional meetings on the Thurston and Chelan county VSP work plans. All of these meetings will take place at the Lacey Conference Center (Farm Bureau offices), Harvest Room, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516. Agendas are located [here](#).

The meeting dates and times are as follows:

April 12, 2017, from 8:30 am - 11:30 am

April 18, 2017, from 9am - 4pm

April 20, 2017, from 9am - 4pm

The meetings will also be available by webinar. Full details will be available on the [TP web page](#).

To register for VSP Technical Panel webinar on

April 12, use this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5754831047304421377>

April 18, use this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1020597860520628993>

April 20, use this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6314383509795947265>

After registering for each separate webinar, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining each webinar.

**VSP BUDGET:** On March 27, 2017, the House released its operating budget. It continues funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) at \$7,602,000, the same amount proposed in the Senate's operating budget. The Governor's proposed operating budget for VSP is \$7,622,000 (a difference of just \$20,000 from the House and Senate). The Commission is encouraged by these budget proposals. Though they do not reflect the Commission's

original budget request for VSP (\$9.35 million), they all contain a similar amount of VSP funding in their budgets.

**VSP END-OF-FISCAL-YEAR VOUCHERING:** All vouchers for VSP eligible expenditures must be received no later than **Monday, July 10, 2017** to be processed and eligible for reimbursement. *Vouchers received after July 10, 2017 will not be reimbursed.* Submit vouchers to [Karla Heinitz](#) at the Commission.

**SUBMITTAL OF VSP COUNTY WORK PLANS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT:** VSP work plans are beginning to come to the Conservation Commission for consideration by the Technical Panel. The Technical Panel has just 45 days to complete their review. To help them facilitate their review, please submit your county VSP work plan and supporting materials to the Conservation Commission electronically.

We ask that VSP work groups please submit work plans to the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) in electronic format. This allows the SCC to quickly post the plans and other supporting documents on our website for public review.

Some work plan files will be very large, exceeding the 20MB limit for email attachments. We ask that work groups upload files to a cloud-based file storage system (such as Dropbox or Google Docs) and submit the file link to the SCC. If you cannot use a cloud-based system for submittal, please save work plan documents on a thumb drive and mail it to the SCC main office (PO Box 47221, Olympia, WA 98504-7721). Unfortunately we cannot accept paper documents. Please use this form [[County VSP Work Plan Submittal Form](#)] to choose cloud-based (electronic uploading), thumb drive (through the mail), or both to submit work plans. The work plan submittal form is also located on the [Commission's VSP web page](#) under the "What's new" heading.

The Commission will provide the materials to the Technical Panel as soon as possible after receipt from the County work group. Please contact [Bill Eller](#) at 509-385-7512 or [Alicia McClendon](#) at 360-407-6200 to coordinate submittal.

**VSP WORK PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT:** The public is invited to comment on any VSP work plan submitted to the VSP Technical Panel within 14 days of submittal. The public can use this public comment [form](#) to capture any comments made. The Technical Panel will be provided with any comments received at the end of that period. The form is available on the Commission's VSP web page [here](#).

**VSP WEB PAGE - REVISED AND UPDATED:** The [Commission's VSP web page](#) has been substantially revised and updated in order to be more user-friendly and to ease the access of information. Please take a look at it [here](#). A number of new items are available under the "What's new" section [here](#). Those include:

[VSP Policy Statement for the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee](#)  
[VSP Monitoring document](#) and [Toolbox Framework](#)  
[VSP process diagram for work plan review](#)

**VSP STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** A current roster of members to the VSP Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) is available on the [SAC web page](#). A direct link is [here](#). The Commission is actively recruiting to fill vacancies on the SAC.

VSP MONTHLY CONSULTANT Q&A: The next Q&A webinar for all those interested in VSP at a statewide level is coming up on **Thursday, April 13 from 9am-9:30am**. Please register for Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Monthly Q&A on Apr 13, 2017 9:00 AM PDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/882921412575734017>

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

This conference call is meant to be a Q & A on VSP for all 27 VSP opt-in counties. The purpose of the call is to be a forum to disseminate information about VSP on a statewide level and to answer VSP related questions. It is open to any who want to phone in, but mainly directed at County staff, Conservation District staff, and consultants and facilitators responsible for VSP.

Links to past webinar recordings are available on the [VSP Workgroups web page](#).

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