

December 2019 VSP Newsletter

JOINT MEETING OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Voluntary Stewardship Program (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 are held at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516, unless otherwise noted.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, December 11, 2019, from 1 pm – 4 pm. The meeting is available by webinar and we encourage webinar attendance.

To register for the December 11th webinar meeting, please use the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4267256707175977229>

After registering, you will receive a

confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

QUARTERLY REPORT DUE January 10, 2020: 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 new [“Implementation”](#) page of the Commission’s VSP web page, under the “Reporting” tab. It can also be found on the [quarterly report form](#) itself.

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

October 1 – December 31, 2019 – **Due January 10, 2020**

January 1 – March 31, 2020 – Due April 10, 2020

April 1 – June 30, 2020 – Due July 10, 2020

July 1 – September 30, 2020 – Due
October 10, 2020
October 1 – December 31, 2020 – Due
January 10, 2021
January 1 – March 31, 2021 – Due April
10, 2021
April 1 – June 30, 2021 – Due July 10,
2021

INTRODUCTORY VSP TRAINING FOR
STATE AGENCY STAFF: The
Conservation Commission hosted a
training for state agency staff last month
entitled an “*Introduction to the Voluntary
Stewardship Program.*” The [webinar
recording](#) is available on the
[Commission’s web page](#).

REMINDER: COUNTIES, PLEASE
SEND THE COMMISSION YOUR VSP
BUDGET: New this biennia, the
Commission requires each county to
send its VSP implementation budget to
the Commission. This requirement is
part of the contract for VSP
implementation between the
Commission and each VSP county.
Please send the budget electronically (a
PDF or Excel spreadsheet is fine) to
[Karla Heinitz](#).

The requirement is designed to ensure
all requirements related to VSP
implementation are accounted for during
the performance of the contract with
each county, and to ensure that the two
year and five year reporting
requirements will be met. The budget is

due to Karla within 120 days of signing
the contract.

Please send the budget to Karla by
email at kheinitz@scc.wa.gov or by
phone at 360-407-6212.

COMMISSION OUTREACH ON VSP
TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
Commission staff presented “*The VSP:
What Commissioners Need To Know*” at
the annual meeting of the [2019 County
Leaders Conference](#) sponsored by the
Washington State Association of
Counties on November 20, 2019 in
Spokane.

NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
COUNTY OR STATE AGENCY STAFF,
OR TECHNICAL SERVICE
PROVIDER? Commission staff and
VSP Technical Panel members are
available to provide VSP training to new
county commissioners, county planning
staff, state agency staff, and VSP
technical service providers.

We understand that the VSP has been
around since 2011, and funded since
2015, and since that time there have
been personnel changes throughout the
VSP partnership. We want to make
sure that all who play a role in making
VSP a success receive a basic training
on what VSP is, how it came to be, why
it is important to the local community,
and how it works to protect critical areas
while maintaining agricultural viability.

We can also provide training to other interested parties, as needed. However, we will prioritize those that have a direct role in VSP - county commissioners, county staff, state agency staff, and technical service providers. Please contact the Commission's [VSP coordinator Bill Eller](#) with training needs.

Bill Eller | beller@scc.wa.gov | 509-385-7512 | Washington State Conservation Commission

VSP VOUCHERING: Remember, the Commission's agency policy requires monthly reimbursement requests for all VSP contracts (as well as any other contracts). However, we have noticed that some counties are sending in reimbursement requests quarterly. Monthly reimbursement requests allow entities to stay on top of expenses and contract end dates. So, please **remember to voucher monthly** for VSP expenses.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE VSP NEWSLETTER: New subscribers should access this link and choose the subscription for the "*Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)*" under the *Programs and Policy* tab:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WASCC/subscriber/new>.

If you have any questions on how to sign up, please contact Bill Eller (beller@scc.wa.gov) or Laura Johnson (LJohnson@scc.wa.gov) at the Commission.