September 2021 VSP Newsletter

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- The Technical Panel meets on September 9, 2021, at 8:00 am
- The Statewide Advisory Committee meets on September 9, 2021, at 10:30 am
- *Save the date:* first VSP monitoring symposium set for October 13, 2021
- Commission assigns staff to VSP work groups
- Grant opportunity through the Emergency Management Division

***** IMPORTANT CHANGE ***** - The September 29, 2021 Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) 5 Year Report Stakeholder Listening Session from 9am – 12 noon will now be held **ON-LINE ONLY**.

Unfortunately, due to the current resurgence of the COVID-19 virus (Delta variant), the Commission has decided that this meeting will be held ON-LINE ONLY. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we adjust in real time to these pandemic conditions.

The listening session is open to all VSP stakeholders, including counties, TSP's, consultants, Statewide Advisory Committee members, and Technical Panel members who wish to participate. The purpose of the meeting is for the Commission to receive feedback on the VSP 5 year report process and procedure, including the template, database, Guide and instructions.

A **draft agenda is available here**.

To join the meeting, use the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85306422205?pwd=aWRpVWJpKzF6UXpoZVc3ZStDQllpdz09

Meeting ID: 853 0642 2205
Passcode: 623190
One tap mobile
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+16699006833,,85306422205#,,,,*623190# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
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VSP MONITORING SYMPOSIUM SURVEY: The Conservation Commission wants to solicit input on the types of training and resources that are considered most critical to meet the unique needs for monitoring and reporting in the VSP. Input received will help Commission staff craft quarterly monitoring symposium content and other efforts related to VSP monitoring and reporting through June 30, 2023.

Please take a moment to fill out the survey by following this link: **https://www.formstack.com/forms/?4486403-0y2VVt0V7k**

JOINT TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING: The next joint meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel will be Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The link to join is below. Remember to use the meeting ID and the passcode:

Topic: Joint VSP TP & SAC meeting
Join Zoom Meeting Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84632466673?pwd=MnN5cUNWK1FSR2c0L0tiWU03SFgwQT09
Meeting ID: 846 3246 6673
Passcode: 162690
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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 846 3246 6673
Passcode: 162690

The agenda and other materials will be posted on the Commission VSP web page.

THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL MEETS ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, AT 8:00 AM: As part of the five year report review and evaluation process, the next public meeting at which the Technical Panel can meet and discuss reports is set for September 9, 2021, at 8:00 am.

Lewis, Spokane and Adams county reports are on the agenda. Counties will be given the opportunity to seek clarity and feedback from the TP regarding their comments during the public meeting, however, the presentation of new or additional data of information will not be available.

The link to attend the online meeting is here: **Topic: VSP 5YR Review Tech Panel & SAC meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83818799530?pwd=MVBNMEpra1NLQ0Z0dis0a3d1c01lUT09

Meeting ID: 838 1879 9530
Passcode: 157425
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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 838 1879 9530
Passcode: 157425

Find your local number:
https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kDaHKBgEL

The agenda and other materials will be posted on the Commission VSP web page.

THE VSP STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, AT 10:30 AM: The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee will meet immediately after the VSP Technical Panel to discuss their recommendations on the county five year reports at 10:30 am, September 9, 2021.

The link to join that online meeting is here: **Topic: VSP 5YR Review Tech Panel & SAC meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83818799530?pwd=MVBNMEpra1NLQ0Z0dis0a3d1c01lUT09

Meeting ID: 838 1879 9530
Passcode: 157425
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The agenda and other materials will be posted on the Commission VSP web page.

COMMISSION ASSIGNS STAFF TO VSP WORK GROUPS: The Conservation Commission is committed to the success of the VSP, and has dedicated a number of staff to that effort. Staff welcome questions and contact from any VSP stakeholder, and are available to support watershed work groups and VSP technical service providers as they implement VSP. To allow our limited staff to serve all 27 VSP watershed work groups, staff have been assigned groups. Those assignments, as well as areas of VSP expertise, are set out below:

Ron Shultz, Director of Policy & Inter-governmental Relations
rshultz@scc.wa.gov
360-407-7507
Work group assignments: Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific, San Juan, Skagit and Thurston

Bill Eller, VSP Coordinator
beller@scc.wa.gov
509-385-7512
Work group assignments: Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Franklin, Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, and Yakima

Brian Cochrane, Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator
bcochrane@scc.wa.gov
360-701-5749
Work group assignments: Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman

Levi Keesecker, Natural Resources Scientist
lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov
360-789-3650
Work group assignments: Adams, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens

Assigning staff to work groups is intended to provide better communication and access for the work groups, and in no way should be construed to limit a work groups' or technical service providers' ability to contact Commission VSP staff. All staff can answer questions in their area of expertise, and can assist with other areas or involve other staff as needed.

Thank you for your efforts to make VSP successful! We look forward to working with you on VSP!

QUARTERLY VSP MONITORING SYMPOSIUMS BEGIN IN OCTOBER:

Mark your calendars - regular quarterly VSP monitoring symposiums will begin this fall on October 13th. VSP Monitoring Symposiums are intended to provide a shared framework for VSP monitoring themes, such as critical area functions and values, stakeholder participation, and the implementation of conservation practices, to support VSP work groups with monitoring and reporting. Content for the symposium is still being developed, but will include foundational material necessary for VSP monitoring as well as additional topics of interest. Please take a moment to fill out the VSP Monitoring Symposium Survey (see link in the current VSP Newsletter) to provide feedback on the themes/topics of most need. More details on the VSP Monitoring Symposium will follow in future communications. We had hoped to conduct the Monitoring Symposium as hybrid in-person/virtual sessions, but may need to move to a virtual-only format due to public health concerns related to COVID-19.

Questions related to the VSP Monitoring Symposium can be directed to Levi Keesecker: **lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov** | (360)-789-3650

GRANT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION – *PRE-APPLICATION PROPOSALS DUE NOVEMBER 30*: Washington State Emergency Management Division's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) mitigation grant round is now available in Washington State through the federal Major Disaster Declaration DR-4481-WA (*COVID-19 Pandemic*). This grant opportunity was announced by the White House on August 05, 2021 and is intended to fund HMGP-eligible activities that reduce the impacts of climate change.

More information can be found on the **WA Announcement and Submission Guidance** from EMD.

WA EMD encourages the submission of large-scale climate resilience project proposals with high dollar values, including those with budgets upwards of $30 million.

Funding priority for this HMGP round will be given to eligible mitigation actions that reduce climate change's long-term risks and impacts on people and property, especially climate adaptation proposals that reduce or eliminate risks to critical infrastructure and community lifelines.

Eligible sub-applicants for HMGP include local governments, special purpose districts, state agencies, private non-profits providing essential government services, and federally recognized Tribal Nations. The DR-4481 HMGP round is open to all eligible entities in Washington.

Example eligible project and planning activities include, ***but are not limited to***, the following:

Projects:
• Aquifer storage and recovery
• Flood risk reduction projects (e.g., culvert upsizing, storm-drainage revisions, flood diversion & storage)
• Generators for essential facilities and critical infrastructure
• Property acquisition and structure demolition/elevation/relocation projects (flood- or erosion-prone properties)
• Soil stabilization and/or erosion control projects
• Structural and non-structural seismic retrofits (especially essential facilities and critical infrastructure)
• Tsunami mitigation projects (vertical evacuation)
• Wildfire defensible space and home-hardening projects (only in Wildland-Urban Interface areas)

Planning and Scoping:
• Advance Assistance (targeted funds to develop initial grant proposals for complex mitigation projects)
• Creating or updating a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Hazard mitigation-related mapping and data collection (limited funding and eligibility)
• Hazard mitigation-specific training(s) and targeted public outreach efforts (limited funding and eligibility)

Please note that the Pre-Application Form submission DEADLINE is November 30, 2021.
Pre-Applications must be submitted using the form provided by EMD and sent to HMA@mil.wa.gov.

Please send questions to our Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) all-staff email address: **HMA@mil.wa.gov**.

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.

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