

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program**

Workgroup Meeting #60

January 27, 2021, 4:00-6:00 pm

Online via Zoom

**DRAFT MEETING NOTES**

**In Attendance:**

John Stuhlmiller, WFB  
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL  
Sarah Moorehead, TCD  
Christina Chaput, TC  
Marguerite Abplanalp, TCD  
Paul Thomsen, Blacksmith Farms  
Richard Mankamy, TC Ag Committee  
Raul De Leon, WSFB  
Phyllis Farrell, Sierra Club  
Brian Merryman, TCFB  
Sean Williams, WDFW  
Adam Carney, WFB

**Excused Absences:**

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB  
Eric Johnson, Johnson Jersey Dairy  
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC

**Current Voting Members (as of end of 8/26 meeting):**

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB  
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC  
Brian Merryman, TCFB  
Raul De Leon, TCFB  
John Stuhlmiller, WFB  
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL  
Eric Johnson, Johnson Farms  
Richard Mankamy, TC Ag Committee  
Phyllis Farrell, Sierra Club  
Paul Thomsen, Blacksmith Farms

**NOTE: Language in RED indicates action items that need to be completed by the next VSP meeting.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Raul De Leon convened the meeting at 4:06 PM.

**Approval of Agenda and Meeting Notes.**

Agenda and previous meeting notes approved.

### **TCD Update**

Sarah Moorehead shared the VSP update. Individual Stewardship Plans enrollments are greater than expected at 20-30 enrollments. Many are turning detailed which is good to see. Assessment of flood damage in the Chehalis basin from this January is ongoing. Thurston County is allocating federal funding to support meat processing infrastructure and to increase the number of skilled laborers to reduce processing time. Succession planning and workshops are being run by Thurston CD, which is a great resource. Finally, legislation to be watching such as HB 1631, 1838, 2106, as well as SB 5727 and 5882, were discussed.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were presented.

John Stuhlmiller shared that Benjamin Tindall will no longer be participating in the VSP workgroup, and that Adam Carney (also with WFB) will be attending in his place.

John also noted that members Eric Johnson, Karen Parkhurst and Jon McAninch should be excused for their absences. The group consented.

### **Thurston County Update – SCC Grant**

Christina Chaput provided the following update:

1. Thurston County's Comprehensive Plan and Development Code preliminary docket written comment period is open, and comments are due February 16<sup>th</sup> by 5 p.m. You can find the preliminary docket as well as the link to submit a comment at <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/comp-plan-amend-docket.aspx>
2. Thurston County Community Planning is hiring. As part of the approved Budget, Community Planning will hire a Program Manager. This position will be tasked with oversight of the VSP Program and be the bridge between the VSP technical provider and Thurston County permitting to assist VSP enrollees with permitting their project, where necessary.
3. Christina Chaput and Phyllis Ferrell, on behalf of the VSP Working Group, attended the State Conservation Commission Joint State Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Group meeting. The objective of the meeting was a presentation/discussion by the county of their VSP implementation efforts, including monitoring, adaptive management, and preparation of their 10YR report. There was a good discussion about reporting metrics and what details are needed in the next report to address the concerns posed by the reviewing agencies during the last reporting period. The VSP Working Group will be provided more regularly the metrics for each of the VSP Work Plan goals and objectives to review and discuss.

### **VSP Promotion and Best Marketing Practices - Discussion**

Additional marketing practices are being looked at by Sarah and Marguerite. They are speaking with an outreach coordinator soon to finish things up and will share concepts and plans with the workgroup.

### **Regional Agriculture Letter of Understanding**

After short discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to add Thurston County VSP to the list of signatories on the Letter of Understanding Regarding Collaboration on Regional Agriculture Development in the South Puget Sound/SW WA region.

Raul to sign Letter of Understanding for Thurston VSP.

### **Other Business**

No other business presented.

### **Next Steps:**

Next Workgroup Meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00PM-6:00PM.

**Adjourned at 5:36 PM.**