

Summary

The first meeting of the newly-formed Thurston Voluntary Stewardship Watershed Workgroup was held at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, Exposition Building, from 3:00 to 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 28th. A list of attendees is included below.

For this inaugural meeting, the agenda included introductions, background presentations on the Voluntary Stewardship Program (provided by Ron Shultz, WA Conservation Commission) and the Thurston Critical Areas Ordinance (provided by Scott Clark of Thurston County).

The Workgroup then took up the topics of Mission Statement, Membership, Scheduling and Ground Rules. Significant discussion was had on mission and membership, and the meeting ended with a discussion of scheduling and location. Ground rules will be taken up as one of the first agenda items for the next meeting, scheduled for June 11th from 5:00-7:00pm at the Thurston Farm Bureau.

Draft Mission Statement

The goal of this planning committee is to collaboratively create a unifying plan county-level for achieving the dual purposes of the Voluntary Stewardship Project within Thurston County, which will also support planning at the watershed and reach levels.

Scope/Role of Thurston County VSP

- Committee has two years and nine months (33 months) to prepare & submit a draft watershed plan
- If progress is unsatisfactory, land and farming will be subject to critical area ordinance requirements
- Planning effort can range from individual reaches to overall county approach
 - County opted in for any and all watersheds; Should start broad & support specialized planning
- Thurston is a pilot county for Washington; watershed planning can provide lessons for other counties
- Can develop different approaches/plans for different watersheds within Thurston County
- Salmonid activity must be considered in identifying reaches/watersheds
- County-wide level of analysis creates broad process to support reach-level planning
- Must be based on "defensible science"

Membership

Participation needs to balance inclusion and a manageable size. Attention must be paid to necessary representation, continuity of participation, and coverage of interests. The workgroup began to develop a list of interests which should be invited to participate as the process moves forward (below). The workgroup also discussed a multi-level process which would include: Direct Participants, Stakeholders who don't (usually) participate directly, but are informed and may provide input, General Stakeholders, and the Public.

Draft list of Interests to Be Invited

- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - **Desire to have all four members of technical panel represented (WDFW, WSDA, ECY, WSCC)
- Young landowners
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Shellfish farmers
- Audubon Society
- Environmental groups
 - Futurewise
 - Nature Conservancy
- American Farmland Trust
- Commerce
- Federal Regulators
- Any groups that hold a “trump card” in environmental policy
 - Avoid being derailed last minute

Data

- VSP Act requires robust metric and evaluation plan
- Act encourages identification and use of existing data sources
- Time and funding constraints limit ability to collect new data
- Critical existing information to be sought
 - Maps
 - Other material from county’s “library” (archives)
 - Data to support metrics and evaluation

Scheduling

Meeting times/Frequency and locations

- Rotating between times and days to support broad participation
- Meetings are initially biweekly, then evaluate for frequency as process matures
- Consider switching locations to provide variety, access to resources and support participation

Attendees & Interested Parties

Addie Candib	Alex Callender
Allyson Beall King	Bruce Morgan
Christy Carr	David Troutt
Dean & Jan Pigman	Don Secena
Donovan Gray	Eric Johnson
Glen Connelly	Howard Glastetter
Jim Goche	Jim Myers
John Stuhlmiller	Karen Parkhurst
Kathleen Whalen	Keith Folkerts
Lucas Patzek	Patrick Dunn
Raul DeLeon	Rick Nelson
Ron Shultz	Stephan Kalinowski
Theresa Nation	Mike Gaffney
Scott Clark	Cindy Wilson
Christina Sanders	Mikko McFeely
Amanda Murphy	