

Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Project
Workgroup Meeting #3 Summary
July 2, 2014 1-3pm
Farm Bureau
975 NE Carpenter Rd, Lacey, WA 98516

In attendance: Laurie Pyne, Evan Sheffels, Pat Dunn, John Stuhlmiller, Kathleen Whalen, Eric Johnson, Rick Nelson, Ben Rau, Theresa Nation, Karen Parkhurst, Mike Gaffney, Christina Sanders, Addie Candib, James Myers, Jim Goche

Communicated inability to attend: Glenn Connelly/Don Secena – Chehalis Tribe, Lucas Patzek, WSU

Summary

The working group discussed finalization of a Mission Statement and Ground Rules then made some decisions regarding membership, decision-making, voting and meeting scheduling. There was also some discussion of the NRCS funding opportunity and whether the VSP might benefit from funding awarded to other entities affiliated with the process.

Mission Statement & Ground Rules

The workgroup generally agreed that we are close to finalization of the Mission Statement and Ground Rules. Christina and Jim Goche will work to finalize the Mission Statement and Mike Gaffney will update the Ground Rules to include details on decision-making. Both documents will be sent out to the workgroup once more, if there is no feedback indicating a need for changes they will be posted to the VSP website.

Membership and Communication

There was much discussion regarding group membership and communication to other interested parties who might not be a part of the working, but would benefit from staying informed. There will continue to be an effort made to ensure that the group includes representation of a diverse group of interested parties which at the very least will include the environmental community, agriculture and tribes, in locations where they might be impacted by the decisions made by this group and a subsequent watershed plan. In addition to posting meeting summaries and other relevant documents on the VSP website the working group discussed the possibility of holding events to inform the public of decisions made and plans developed throughout the process. The group is also considering providing the opportunity for public comment on the website and encouraging the community to contact working group members who they see as representing their interests as additional opportunities to engage the public.

Scheduling

Meeting times/Frequency and locations

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

- the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 24th, from 4:30-6:30pm at the State Farm Bureau in Lacey (address above)

NRCS Funding Opportunity

The State Farm Bureau will be submitting a statewide pre-proposal application for the state VSP program, but do not need anything beyond casual feedback on that application. Patrick Dunn from the Center for Natural Lands Management may also be submitting one for their Sentinel Land project, as well. The Thurston VSP Workgroup will not be submitting, or formally cooperating on any pre-proposal applications.

Other

Working group members agreed to provide information on their affiliation and interests they represent as a member of the working group along with a short bio and preferred method for being contacted. This information should be sent to Christina (cmsanders@wsu.edu) as soon as possible. Christina will develop a chart to display this information which will be added to the VSP website.