

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Project
Workgroup Meeting #4 Summary
July 24, 2014 4:30-6:30pm
Farm Bureau
975 NE Carpenter Rd, Lacey, WA 98516**

In attendance: Eric Johnson, Bruce Morgan, Jeremy Davis, Patrick Dunn, James Myers, Allyson Beall-King (by phone), Ben Rau, Jon McAninch, Karen Parkhurst, Jan Pigman, Raul deLeon, Amanda Reed, Kathleen Whalen, Evan Sheffels, John Stuhmiller, Rick Nelson, Theresa Nation, Laurence Reeves, Mike Gaffney, Christina Sanders, Jim Goche

Communicated inability to attend: Glenn Connelly/Don Secena – Chehalis Tribe, Lucas Patzek, WSU, Christy Carr, American Farmland Trust, Laurie Pyne, Olympia Beekeepers Assn, Alex Callender, Ecology, Ron Shultz, Conservation Commission, Cindy Wilson, Thurston County,

Summary

The working group discussed the earlier end date for funding through the Conservation Commission and what impact that will have on our timeline for plan development. The Mission Statement and Ground Rules were discussed and finalized; the group discussed what kinds of information would be needed in order to move forward with the initial steps in development of a plan. Mike Kaputa from Chelan County provided an update on what has been happening with the VSP in Chelan.

Funding and New Timeline

Mike Gaffney explained that the current funding from the Conservation Commission will now end as of June 2015. This earlier date means that we have a shorter timeline to develop a watershed plan. Originally WSU's contract ran through December of 2015, so we will be amending our contract with the County and will likely continue to meet every 2-3 weeks instead of relaxing our meeting schedule to once a month as was discussed previously.

Mission Statement & Ground Rules

After much discussion the Mission Statement and the Ground Rules for the working group have been finalized. Language for both will be posted to the VSP website.

What we Need to Know to Move Forward

The group made several suggestions on what information would be useful to have

- Names and boundaries of the watersheds in the County
- A better understanding of the agricultural activity that is currently taking place in the critical areas
- A copy of the 9 points that NRCS uses to develop plans. (Christina will forward via email.) The group also discussed the potential benefit of having someone from NRCS and/or someone from the Conservation Commission doing a presentation to the group on these 9 points.

- Access to a database of maps of the area
- Information, probably from DFW to help the group to better understand what kind of work is already being done and what kind of data already exists. Theresa Nation will assist in this area by checking into how we go about requesting this information.

Chelan County VSP Update

Mike Kaputa provided the following overview and update:

- Chelan County began their process in 2014
- They designated all four of their watersheds as priorities
- Starting out they established an agricultural working group and a staff working group
- Recently they held a broader stakeholder group meeting and plan to combine as a policy body to be the watershed working group but will also maintain subgroups
- They have extensive mapping of critical areas and agricultural areas, which has been supported by NCRS and contracting with a consulting firm. Critical Areas maps were obtained through DFW
- They now have a robust database and are working on a literature review of stressors on agriculture: understanding where ag practices have impact on critical areas, where they intersect and what stressors exist
- Also are beginning to evaluate what ag programs are active and which ones might already be using practices that would be beneficial under the VSP
- They will be seeking funding for 2015-2017 to complete the plan and begin implementation and would be interested in partnering with Thurston VSP to seek additional funding
- They are happy to share any of their work products with the Thurston VSP working group and are interested in maintaining communication and sharing information to the benefit of both programs

Scheduling

Meeting times/Frequency and locations

- Rotating between times and days to support broad participation will continue
- Meetings will occur approximately bi-weekly
- We will consider switching locations to provide variety, access to resources and support participation
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5th from 3-5 pm at the State Farm Bureau in Lacey (address above)

Other

Please note that at the previous meeting 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.