

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program  
Workgroup Meeting #31 Summary  
March 3, 2017  
Washington State Farm Bureau offices**

In attendance:

Jim Goche, Friendly Grove Farms  
Eric Johnson, Farmer  
Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB  
Erin Ewald, Taylor Shellfish  
Brian Merryman, TCFB  
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL  
Jim Myers, Nisqually  
Theresa Nation, WDFW  
Rick Nelson, TCFB/Grange  
Patrick Dunn, Center for Natural Lands Management  
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC  
Evan Sheffels, WSFB  
John Stuhlmiller, WSFB  
Kathleen Whalen, TCD

Staff: Maya Buhler, Charissa Waters, Neil Aaland, Brad Murphy

Welcome and Introductions: Facilitator Neil Aaland and Chair Jim Myers opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment: No comment was offered by members of the public.

Review Specific Items discussed at Previous Meeting:

*Item A:* Neil asked Brad to report on the County's official status on the Workgroup. Brad stated that, as at the previous meeting, the County maintains the opinion that the Workgroup is an independent entity and does not belong to the County.

*Item B:* The issue of confidentiality was revisited. Kathleen sent our current confidentiality text to the WSCC staff and asked them to review the statement:

***“Similar to Farm Plans developed by Conservation Districts, Stewardship Plans are confidential and are exempt from disclosure, unless permission is granted by the landowner or operator.”***

The WSCC returned the statement with statute citations added to the end of the text. Several members of the Workgroup expressed concern that the WSCC did not explicitly state they agree or disagree with the text in the statement. Other members expressed concern that there is currently no statutory basis for Individual Stewardship Plans specifically. John S. suggested that we write this text as we interpret it with the direction received to date. Confidentiality text in Appendices D and L are still being drafted.

*Item C:* This issue was resolved in the interim time between last meeting and this meeting. The blended drafting subcommittee resolved the language surrounding this issue in the work plan.

*Item D:* This issue was resolved in the interim time between last meeting and this meeting. Language in the work plan has been edited to reflect that the Workgroup will begin adaptive management after plan submittal to determine if code from TCC 17.15 should be incorporated into the work plan.

*Item E:* The agricultural viability subcommittee held a roundtable on February 16 and has incorporated the information from that meeting into the Appendix.

#### Review/Recommend Approval for “Blended” Document

The group used the work plan that was a blend of review and edits from the technical subcommittee and drafting subcommittee. The blended subcommittee met in the interim between meetings to go over any language that could not be agreed upon by e-mail. At the in-person meeting, the blended subcommittee addressed many issues around language and left areas that could not be resolved for “Workgroup Resolution”.

The Workgroup began on page 3 of the plan and discussed the location of VSP Work Group Participants. The blended subcommittee recommended that the list be moved, in entirety, to Appendix N. The Workgroup agreed with this movement. Some members noted that the agency and affiliations should be listed separately and untied to names. John and Theresa stated that there is importance in tying the agency and affiliation name. The Workgroup suggested stating “farmer” instead of full farm names. Maya asked that if anyone would like changes to their affiliations, they e-mail her with the desired name. Additionally, the Workgroup decided to change “consultant” to “technical expert” throughout the plan.

The Workgroup then addressed the issue of “supplant” or “supplement” language in the plan. The Workgroup agreed to use language stating that they will proceed with adaptive management to incorporate existing TCC 17.15 regulations as needed into the work plan, after submittal.

Several portions of text on the Shoreline Management Act and TCC 17.15 were moved to Appendix I. Some edits were made to the footnotes.

Bruce moved to forward the draft work plan, as discussed and amended at this meeting with the exception of minor grammatical changes and updates to language for consistency, to the Washington State Conservation Commission. Eric seconded motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

The Workgroup used the remaining time to go over changes in the Stewardship Plan (Appendix D) and the Definitions (Appendix B).

John and Evan requested a new date or start time for the March 8, 2017 meeting. The group agreed to start at 4:00 on March 8.

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, from 4 to 7 pm.