

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program  
Workgroup Meeting #33 Summary  
March 23, 2017  
Washington State Farm Bureau offices**

In attendance:

Jim Myers, Chair, Nisqually  
Jon McAninch, Co-Chair, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB  
Jim Goche, Friendly Grove Farms  
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL  
Rick Nelson, TCFB/Grange  
Patrick Dunn, Center for Natural Lands Management  
Evan Sheffels, WSFB  
Kathleen Whalen, Thurston Conservation District

Staff: Maya Buhler, Charissa Waters, Brad Murphy

Communicated absence: Eric Johnson, Brian Merryman, Karen Parkhurst

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

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

Old business:

Summer scheduling may be difficult. Staff is currently existing until the end of May, part time. The Voluntary Stewardship Program has funding currently in the budget.

New business:

Outreach has begun informally. A presentation was given to Wilco Farms about VSP on March 15, 2017. Some of the participants at the event were familiar with the Voluntary Stewardship Program, including some from Lewis County; their style of considering Workgroup "participants" is different from Thurston in that, if you show up at a meeting, you are a participant. Lewis County is still early on in the process.

A presentation on the Thurston VSP was also given to the Nisqually River Council and some communications have been made with Thurston County Commissioners to let them know the plan was submitted timely and is going to be reviewed by the state in meetings, but that there are still outstanding issues: confidentiality, supplant/supplement.

Roundtable Confidentiality vs Farm Discussion:

Drawing the connection between an Individual Stewardship Plan and a Farm Plan is a leap of faith without any statutory connection. There is currently no statutory basis. Advice from the Commission has been inconsistent. One outcome may be to withhold implementation if confidentiality issues are not resolved.

Issues (confidentiality, supplant or supplement, staffing) are mostly essential for resolution before outreach and implementation begin. Staffing needs should be brought to the Thurston County Commissioners. The Chair and Vice-Chair will contact the Thurston County Commissioners to discuss funding and other issues regarding VSP.

Charissa began reviewing TCC 17.15 to identify areas that may be incorporated into the Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program. Chelan County copied and pasted the CARA and flood regulations into their plan as an Appendix.

#### Review Meetings of Thurston County VSP

Currently two meetings are scheduled to review the Thurston VSP Voluntary Stewardship Program. A preliminary informal meeting is scheduled March 28, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, and a formal review on April 18, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Initially, it was suggested that Charissa Waters serve as a representative at these meetings, and be available to answer questions and guide the Technical Panel through the Work Plan. The Work Group had a considerable discussion around providing a representative at this meeting. For several reasons, the Work Group expressed concerns:

- Quasi-judicial meeting, may go off of representative's points before the Work Plan
- The Work Plan should serve as a standalone document
- One representative cannot speak for the Work Group and the substantial back-and-forth process and discussions over the past 2 years. One representative should not "interpret" the plan.

There was some discussion on sending Charissa Waters as a representative but refrain from answering any questions, and only to provide guidance and point to locations of statutory items. The Work Group took a vote on this and of attending members who voted, it was split 50-50.

The Work Group's final decision was to not send a representative to the Technical Panel review meetings either for questions or navigational help. Charissa Waters will draft an e-mail for Chair Jim Myers to send to the SCC confirming the Work Group's decision not to send a representative, although several VSP members will sit in the audience, and request that all questions be submitted to the Work Group in writing.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2017 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the WSFB. A meeting may be held earlier if feedback is received from the technical panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.