

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Workgroup Meeting #34 Summary
April 7, 2017
Thurston County Courthouse Offices**

In attendance:

Jim Myers, Chair, Nisqually
Jon McAninch, Co-Chair, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Jim Goche, Friendly Grove Farms
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL
Patrick Dunn, Center for Natural Lands Management
Evan Sheffels, WSFB
Kathleen Whalen, Thurston Conservation District (TCD)
Eric Johnson, Farmer/TCD
John Stuhlmiller, WSFB
Theresa Nation, WSWF

Staff: Charissa Waters

Communicated absence: Rick Nelson, Brian Merryman

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:

The Chair informed the Workgroup that a meeting with Commissioner Bud Blake is scheduled 10 April 2017. The purpose of that meeting is to update the commissioner regarding the VSP review process as well as exploring staffing and bridging funding for the Workgroup. A letter of recommendation for staff (Maya and Charissa) will be presented on behalf of our workgroup to the County Manager at that meeting.

New Business:

The Chair reviewed the complete VSP plan review/approval process.

- Preliminary review by Tech Panel to be continued on April 12, 2017
- 8 hour final review April 18, 2017
- Technical Panel will have an approve or disapprove decision within 45 day period, starting March 9th so they should have a decision by April 24th

John Stuhlmiller provided information regarding the State Advisory Committee participation in the process, if the Work Plan is not approved by the Tech Panel.

Ongoing interaction with the Tech Panel was discussed and a preliminary course of action was agreed upon pending the outcome of the Tech Panel at the 12 April meeting. A possible informational letter and its contents were discussed and tabled until the review process has moved forward.

The workgroup discussed and agreed upon a plan to provide a Thurston County Staff (Charissa) navigator as well as the Vice Chair, Jon McAninch to assist the Tech Panel at both the April 12th and

April 18th Tech Panel reviews. Discussion regarding "rules of engagement", i.e. scope of authority to answer questions vs simply provide guidance to the panel in locating information, was thorough. Staff was directed to inform the Tech Panel in advance of the intended roles of each participating member.

Discussion regarding appropriate documentation to be submitted to the Tech Panel prior to their next (April 12) preliminary review was discussed. Content and format for an Executive Summary Letter, a written response to Tech Panel questions, and a preface letter were agreed upon and Staff was directed to submit them to the Tech Panel Monday 10 April 2017.

Charissa presented an overview of the draft responses to the Tech Panel questions sent in writing on April 4th which arose pursuant to the 28 March preliminary plan review by the Technical Panel. Some discussion regarding several responses ensued and the Workgroup assisted Charissa in crafting language to "flesh out" the responses.

The Chair and the Workgroup pre-authorized sending a potential letter to SCC in response to Tech Panel questions they may have after their meeting on April 12, if necessary.

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, depending on feedback received from the technical panel.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.