

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Workgroup Meeting #35 Summary
April 17, 2017
Washington State Farm Bureau**

In attendance:

Jon McAninch, Co-Chair, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Jim Goche, Friendly Grove Farms
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL
Evan Sheffels, WSFB (via phone)
Kathleen Whalen, Thurston Conservation District (TCD)
Robin Buckingham, Thurston Conservation District (TCD)
John Stuhlmiller, WSFB

Staff: Charissa Waters, Brad Murphy, Maya Buhler

Communicated absence: Rick Nelson, Jim Myers

Welcome and Introductions: Vice-Chair Jon McAninch opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

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

Overview of 4/12/17 Tech Panel Meeting:

Members in the audience felt that the Technical Panel still had not read the Work Plan in its entirety. Although a representative was provided at this meeting, the Technical Panel did not always direct questions to the representative. The issues and concerns discussed by the Technical Panel were largely issues that are addressed in the plan and could be clarified by navigational help through the document, as well as piecing together appendices.

The last day for a vote from the Technical Panel is on 23 April 2017.

Discussion of draft responses to concerns from 4/12/17 meeting:

The group reviewed the draft responses sent out by Charissa. The group discussed whether to use “type, number and extent” or “percent of acres” for conservation practice metrics and ultimately decided on “type, number and extent, and percent (as applicable)”. Adaptive Management threshold clarifications were agreed upon by the group.

There was discussion around the phrasing of monitoring. Since not all site-visits will be annual, the group decided to use the phrasing “annual monitoring” instead of “annual site-visits” to imply that other forms of monitoring will be used for annual monitoring (phone call, survey, email) and site visits will be done in the 5-year period before reporting.

Other items on the draft response were discussed. The WG members agreed by consensus to the final changes.

WG views on health and merit of Work Plan:

The Thurston County Work Group believes that the plan is sufficient to meet all areas of statute.

Role of the Navigator at the TP Meeting:

The group discussed what the role of the navigator at the TP meeting is and if the navigator can be more proactive and initiate conversation. John said that the navigator is only to speak when questions are directly asked, and that this procedure is intentional.

Charissa will make a packet of all the items we have submitted to the TP during their review for tomorrow's meeting.

Interim Funding Request:

John S. stated that once a plan is approved, a funding request can be sent to the WSCC. There is uncertainty in how this would piece out.

Jon M. and Jim M. spoke with the Thurston County Commissioners in regards to interim funding; the Commissioners seemed receptive to finding interim funding to continue VSP. Furthermore, the WG members recommended a permanent VSP position in some capacity to ensure the plan continues successfully.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.