

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Workgroup Meeting #39 Summary
November 2, 2017
Washington State Farm Bureau offices**

In attendance:

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL
Jim Myers, Nisqually landowner/farmer
Patrick Dunn, Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM)
Robin Buckingham, TCD
Eric Johnson, Johnson Farms

Staff: Charissa Waters

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

Public Comment: No members of the public present.

Approval of Previous Meeting Notes: This was added as a regular agenda item because it is standard procedure similar to other committees and provides an opportunity to incorporate everyone's viewpoint and come to consensus on any suggested changes. The group took 5 minutes to read the notes. A motion to approve the notes was passed at 3:15pm.

Approval of Agenda: The group added a discussion of Workgroup Administration and structure. The agenda was approved as amended.

Discussion of liability issues and risk. County staff and the chair (via a conversation with Evan Sheffels who was the workgroup representative at the meeting) provided a report back on the meeting with the County Commissioner on this issue. County staff is still in discussion with risk management and the deputy attorney on options. The group wants the issue of status and legal liability resolved before implementation. However, they recognize that it may need to be resolved at the state level. Discussion of starting implementation with a few pilot projects of willing landowners that understand the ongoing issues, such as confidentiality.

Discussion of confidentiality. The issue of confidentiality of Individual Stewardship Plans (ISPs) may be addressed in legislature this year or the next with farm plan confidentiality. They are trying to get them to be covered under farms plans. Question: Can they do them as farm plans until then or amend existing farm plans to include ISPs? How much would they need to be modified or added to? The definition of ISPs and farms plans is essentially the same.

Discussion of next steps. Early Adaptive Management as laid out in the response letter to the technical panel as a condition to approval. Incorporating county code into the work plan. The group requested a meeting for background and education on the process. What's involved in the code and how does it get updated and incorporated into the work plan? Perhaps at the next meeting (last one this year). The chair suggested and group agreed to hold off the meeting until January for the report back on status and liability issues and discussion of implementation.

Discussion of membership. The group wants membership to have terms and more structure. Need to recruit new members and have more diversity of representation of groups. Need to move forward and have discussions of implementation and topics that people are interested in to help get more participation. Could get willing landowners and some pilot projects going soon to kick off implementation.

Next meeting scheduled for December 7th 3-5pm

The rooms at the Farm Bureau may not always be available and a backup meeting location may need to be found.

Chair Jim Myers is stepping down due to health issues. Vice Chair Jon McAninch does not want to be the chair in the interim. Elections for a new chair will need to be held at the next meeting. Jon and Bruce expressed that they want to nominate Patrick Dunn for the chair position.

Next Agenda

Election of new chair

Discuss options for early adaptive management

Presentation from county staff on potential codes to include and the code update process

Presentation by TCD on ISPs and conservation planning process

Adjourned at 4:30pm