

**Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Workgroup Meeting #43 Summary
March 22, 2018
Thurston Regional Planning Council**

In attendance:

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Raul De Leon, TCFB
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC
James Myers, Nisqually farmer
Patrick Hughes, City of Yelm
Dan Calvert, PSP
Rick Nelson, TCFB/Grange
Barbara Craven, SSWAB
Sarah Moorehead, TCD

Staff: Charissa Waters

Excused absence:

John Stuhlmiller, WFB
Brian Merryman, TCFB
Brad Murphy, TC
Patrick Dunn, CNLM

Current Voting Members:

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Patrick Dunn, CNLM
Rick Nelson, TCFB/Grange
Evan Sheffels, WSFB
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC
Brian Merryman, TCFB
Raul De Leon, TCFB
John Stuhlmiller, WSFB
Jim Myers, Nisqually farmer
Dan Calvert, PSP

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Jon McAninch opened the meeting at 3:00pm.

Public Comment: No comment.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with a minor amendment to add the draft liability letter from the County's risk management and attorney's offices. After a brief review of the letter, the group decided to move discussion of the letter to the next meeting's agenda. Vice-chair Raul De Leon volunteered to look into the cost of policies for group liability coverage.

Approval of Previous Meeting Notes: The group took a few minutes to read the notes. A motion to approve the notes was passed with a minor amendment (chair and vice-chair not "co-chairs").

Discussion of voting members. Stakeholders and those groups specifically included in the VSP statute should be included as voting members. The group requested an edit to the ground rules to clarify voting members based on the statutory language. Charissa will have a draft for review at the next meeting.

Discussion of reporting deadline and identifying change from the baseline. The first 5-year report is due in July of 2019. The group would like to have Brian Cochran come to a meeting to talk about monitoring methods. Charissa will contact him and report back at the next meeting. The group needs to be able to determine if TCD or the county will actually be able to do the type of monitoring suggested.

Discussion of early adaptive management and the code update process. The workgroup reviewed and discussed the new draft VSP Chapter 17.16. Discussion of the suggestion to include codes for the protection of oak habitat. Question: does TCD have experience with protecting oak habitat and conservation practices that they would recommend be implemented in a stewardship plan? TCD will look at the management strategies that they have used in the past for protection and enhancement of oak habitat and report back at the next meeting. Sarah also described some incentives they are working on by pairing VSP with other programs and integrating with NRCS programs and local working groups.

Update on outreach and implementation. The Conservation District incorporated feedback from the workgroup at the last meeting and are aiming to have a draft implementation and outreach plan by the next meeting. Several producers are already showing interest and two are currently moving forward with the VSP stewardship plan process. TCD are actively sharing info on VSP in outreach efforts. They are looking at having a large outreach push in April with mailings and pinpointing areas using the agricultural activities and critical areas intersection map.

The discussion of Chelan's VSP implementation field guide was moved to the next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for April 26th from 3-5pm at TRPC

Next Agenda

Ground rules review of edits

Chelan's VSP implementation field guide

Outreach and Implementation Plan (TCD)

Adaptive management and code update

Monitoring methods and update if able to get Brian Cochran to come to the meeting

Adjourned at 5:00pm