

Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Workgroup Meeting #48
January 3, 2019, 4:00-6:00 pm
Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Court SW, Suite A
Olympia, WA 98502

In Attendance:

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Raul De Leon, TCFB
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/Violet Prairie Plantation
John Stuhlmiller, WFB
Richard Mankamyer, Board of TCD Supervisor, TC Ag Committee
Sarah Moorehead, TCD
Eric Johnson, Johnson Farms
James Meyers, Nisqually Farmer
Charissa Waters, TC
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC
Anthony Waldrop, GHCD
Megan Martin Aust, Pacific CD
Tom Davis, WFB
Patrick Dunn, CNLM
Phyllis Farrell, Sierra Club

Excused Absences:

Brad Murphy, TC

Current Voting Members:

Jon McAninch, WWA, Cedarville Farms, TCFB
Patrick Dunn, CNLM
Rick Nelson, TCFB/Grange
Karen Parkhurst, TRPC
Brian Merryman, TCFB
Raul De Leon, TCFB
John Stuhlmiller, WSFB
James Myers, Nisqually farmer
Bruce Morgan, TCFB/UPPL
Eric Johnson, Johnson Farms
Tom Davis, WFB
Richard Mankamyer, Board of TCD Supervisor, TC Ag Committee

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Public Comment: No comment.

Approval of Agenda. Approved by consensus.

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Approved by consensus at the end of the meeting.

Update from TCD: Outreach continues. They are reaching out to specific producer groups. Anthony from GHCD started site visits for ISP development and implementation. Megan with PCD is in attendance to talk about the online ISP form and tracking methods. Sarah handed out an update of current numbers for implementation of the VSP. Question if there is enough funding to implement. Yes, there is enough. TCD is looking to hire a dedicated staff member for VSP, which will be determined by the board of supervisors. The funding mechanism of rates and charges was approved by TC Board of County Commissioners for 1 year term. The workgroup discussed the handout from TCD on current numbers, funding and data for reporting. There is currently representation of producers from all basins participating in the VSP, as well as most agricultural types. The workgroup had a suggestion to use story maps for tracking and outreach, including visuals of implementation and testimonials from willing participants. Both quantitative data for monitoring and qualitative information for reporting, outreach and marketing will need to be collected. Phyllis expressed the perspective of the general public and the need for more info on the state of agriculture in the county and how to protect it. Public support is important. The workgroup acknowledged this and that there are challenges with this info and data gaps.

Sarah will send out the draft outreach plan and current numbers to the workgroup for comments and feedback. The workgroup will then have the opportunity to review it in the final form at the next meeting.

The workgroup discussed the idea for VSP farm signs and branding. Charissa and Sarah will look into potential funding and cost estimates.

Update from Anthony with GHCD. He has met with 5 landowners for ISPs and more site visits are scheduled later this month. There are a lot of willing landowners interested in developing ISPs.

Presentation on Pacific CDs Stewardship Plans

Megan gave a presentation and showed the workgroup what Pacific CDs online ISP form looks like and how it helps with tracking and monitoring. This is the same format that GHCD has used for theirs as well. PCD has developed 53 ISPs as of October 22nd. They are doing 90% cost-share (vs 60% regularly) as an incentive to participate. Their would be a minimal investment to integrate Thurston's ISP into the online format. The language in the ISP would remain the same, as approved by the workgroup. TCD staff can input paper checklists and those that have already been completed into the online form once it is developed. A motion was made to integrate Thurston VSP's checklist into the online form to "digitize" the checklist. The motion was approved by consensus.

Discussion on Appendix N language:

The workgroup had received the language in question via email. Charissa had met with the CDs to see what would be most helpful for them to change in the language in order to facilitate implementation of the ISPs. A motion was made to change the language to “may” rather than “will” to allow for the necessary flexibility in early implementation. The motion was approved by consensus, less one vote.

Next Steps:

Discuss VSP signs and branding efforts. Charissa and Sarah will work on getting cost estimates and draft design ideas. The workgroup will review the drafts and approve before they are finalized.

Outreach plan and language for marketing. Sarah will share the draft via email and is asking for input from the workgroup on why they would participate and why it’s important.

Adaptive management, monitoring and reporting – plan for July 2019.

Next Workgroup Meeting: TBD

Adjourned at 6:00PM.