

# Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 P.M. April 11, 2019  
County Commissioners Meeting Room  
Montesano, WA

## Attendees:

**Work Group Members:** Jay Gordon, Logan Zepp, Owen Shaffner, Ed Lagergren, Kyle Deerkop, Terry Willis (chair), Terry Moore, Darrell Haglund

**Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff:** Anthony Waldrop, Natalie Osowski

**Grays Harbor County Staff:** Jane Hewitt

**Cedarville Farms; Thurston County Farm Bureau:** Jon McAninich

**Public:** N/A

**Work Group Members Absent:** Gary Waltenburg (excused)

## Minutes:

The Grays Harbor County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Group Meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Chair Terry Willis.

Public Comments: There were no public comments

Changes to the agenda: Additional Items: Budget, No-Till Drill. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. A second was made by Logan Zepp. Motion passed by consensus.

## Old Business:

- The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the March 14, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the March 14, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes with an amendment to the phrase "labor rate" to read as "cost share labor rate". A second was made by Logan Zepp. The motion passed by consensus.
- Anthony Waldrop gave the Technical Service Provider report to the Work Group by updating the group on completed Individual Stewardship Plan checklists, the signing of the Grays Harbor County Voluntary Stewardship Program High Resolution Change Detection contract between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Grays Harbor Conservation District, attendance of the VSP Specialist at the Pacific and Grays Harbor Farm Bureau board meeting, and the submission of the quarterly report.
- There is interest to hold a coordinated agriculture education meeting for local producers at the Sharon Grange. This meeting could have presentations about the Farm Bureau, and an update on local agriculture viability including the proposed grain facility and agriculture business park. This meeting would be a good opportunity to talk about the Voluntary Stewardship Program and would be one of the featured presentations. Terry Willis will work with Grays Harbor Conservation District staff to coordinate this meeting.

## New Business:

- Implementation Deliverables
  - Natalie Osowski gave an update about how she is meeting implementation deliverables stated in the work plan. She has worked out a timeline to meet these deliverables by the end of the biennium. Currently, she is working on designing brochures and ordering an iPad. Other deliverables that are scheduled to be completed in the near future include recruiting “Pioneer Participants”, organizing a Voluntary Stewardship Program event, and completing more Individual Stewardship Program checklists. For future meetings, Natalie will provide implementation deliverable updates in the TSP report.
- Cost Share Policy
  - Anthony Waldrop presented a draft of a cost share policy for the work group to look over. This draft was created using the Asotin County VSP cost share policy. Anthony added eligibility requirements to the draft. This policy is a stand-alone policy, it is not the Grays Harbor Conservation District’s policy. A discussion was held about adding ag viability to the cost share policy. It was requested that the word “and” in the first sentence of the policy be changed to “and/or”. Another request was to add agriculture viability to one of the eligibility requirements.
    - **Action item:** Anthony and Natalie will revise the draft of the cost share policy based on the recommendations and bring the revised draft to the next meeting.
- Landowner Cost Share Projects
  - The Work Group was presented with three cost share project candidates with landowner information redacted. The project candidates were numbered 16802, 16806, and 17220. Candidate 17220 was a member of the work group, and it was determined that said candidate leave the room when that particular cost share project is being discussed by the work group. Cost share projects 16802 and 16806 were presented to the group by the conservation district staff and discussed by the members on whether or not the project meets the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. It was stated that the summaries of the projects should include the acreage of critical areas found on the property.
  - Cost share project 17220 was discussed after the candidate was excused from the work group. While the candidate was out of the room, Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve cost share project 17220. A second was made by Jay Gordon. The motion passed by consensus.
  - The work group member was invited back into the room to discuss the other projects 16802 and 16806. Logan Zepp made a motion to approve cost share project 16806. A second was made by Owen Shaffner. The motion passed by consensus.
  - Kyle Deerkop made a motion to approve cost share project 16802. A second was made by Logan Zepp. The motion passed by consensus. The final cost share project contracts will be signed by Terry Willis, the authorized signatory of the cost share contracts.
- Budget

- Anthony Waldrop presented the Voluntary Stewardship Program budget which included the projected remaining funding at the end of the biennium as \$43,791.48. A discussion was held about how to spend that money. Some ideas were purchasing a no-till drill, a manure spreader, simple cost share projects such as gutters for a barn, and improving the Grays Harbor Conservation District website. It was stated that the website needs improving to remove ads and that the work group would be willing to pay for the improvement of the website since information about VSP is found on the conservation district website. Anthony Waldrop cautioned about using Voluntary Stewardship Program funding to improve the Grays Harbor Conservation District website. Logan Zepp suggested that perhaps the Grays Harbor Conservation District board would match VSP funding to improve the website.
- No-Till Drill
  - Anthony Waldrop told the work group that the Washington State Conservation Commission approved the purchase of a no-till drill by the Voluntary Stewardship Program work group. A no-till drill would be available to rent for local landowners. The group discussed there would have to be policy and procedures in place for renting the no-till drill to landowners. The landowner would have to sign an agreement before using the no-till drill and a maintenance program would have to be in place. Some suggestions were made about what kind of no-till drill to buy such as width and what kind of tractor horsepower would be needed to pull the no-till drill.
    - **Action item:** Anthony and Natalie will research no-till drills and return to the next meeting with quotes.
- Future Meeting Dates
  - The next two meetings were scheduled for May 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM and June 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Both meetings will be held in the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm. Next meeting will be May 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

**Summary of Motions:**

1. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. A second was made by Logan Zepp. Motion passed by consensus.
2. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the March 14, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes with an amendment to the phrase "labor rate" to read as "cost share labor rate". A second was made by Logan Zepp. The motion passed by consensus.
3. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve cost share project 17220. A second was made by Jay Gordon. The motion passed by consensus.
4. Logan Zepp made a motion to approve cost share project 16806. A second was made by Owen Shaffner. The motion passed by consensus.
5. Kyle Deerkop made a motion to approve cost share project 16802. A second was made by Logan Zepp. The motion passed by consensus.