

Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

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

Attendees:

Work Group Members: Jay Gordon, Kyle Deerkop, (vice chair), Terry Moore, Darrell Haglund, Terry Willis (chair), Logan Zepp, Gary Waltenburg

Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff: Anthony Waldrop, Natalie Osowski

Grays Harbor County Staff: Jane Hewitt

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Emelie McKain

Quinault Nation: Dave Bingaman

Work Group Members Absent: Owen Shaffner (excused), Ed Lagergren (not excused)

Minutes:

The Grays Harbor County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Group Meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chair Terry Willis.

Public Comments: There were no public comments

Changes to the agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Old Business:

- The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the June 13, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting. Kyle Deerkop made a motion to approve the June 13, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
- Natalie Osowski gave the Technical Service Provider report to the Work Group by updating the group on end of the biennium happenings. Two cost share projects were completed using VSP funds, Natalie showed the Work Group some pictures of the completed projects. Natalie had a VSP informational booth at the Aberdeen Sunday Market on July 7, 2019. She talked to the public about VSP and handed out brochures and business cards. The quarterly report for the April-June quarter was submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission.

New Business:

- Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Presentation
 - Emelie McKain, Chehalis Basin ASRP Manager, gave a presentation about the ASRP in the Chehalis Basin. The ASRP is a science based plan to restore habitat to support multiple species in the basin. The plan is partnership focused almost wholly on private lands. The plan is scheduled to be released this fall. Emelie and Dave Bingaman representing the Quinault Nation answered

questions from the Work Group. The Work Group discussed how any projects resulting from ASRP could count towards VSP practice benchmarks and how VSP and ASRP could collaborate on some projects.

- Emergency Drought Funding
 - Anthony Waldrop gave a summary about the Emergency Drought Funding available. Anthony spoke with the Department of Ecology about the eligible applicants and it was interpreted that only public entities are eligible for the funding. Eligible projects must be within a drought declaration area, include a reduction in water supply caused by drought must cause, or will cause, undue hardship, and cost share is required unless special exemption eligible. The Work Group discussed how valuable this funding could be to private landowners and requested that Anthony contact the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Department of Ecology to see if funding could be available to private landowners.
 - **Action Item:** Anthony will follow up with the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Department of Ecology to confirm whether or not this funding is available to private landowners.
- Budget Goals and Priorities
 - The budget report was reviewed by the Work Group. The Work Group requested to have a depletion report or pending depletion report for future budget reference. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the budget report as presented. A second was made by Jay Gordon. The motion passed by consensus.
 - **Action Item:** Anthony and Natalie will create depletion reports and pending depletion reports as needed for Work Group review.
- Reporting
 - A brief update was given regarding the biennium report. Natalie spoke about the Washington State Conservation Commission's requirements for the report and the status of the report. She will have a draft ready for the next Work Group meeting.
 - Darrell Haglund mentioned a Farm to Table Brochure that is distributed in Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties and contains information about farm to table operations in those counties. This brochure would be good advertising for the VSP. Darrell also mentioned that fresh fruit cranberry growers recently had water quality tests done on their operations. These tests are conducted by Ocean Spray and could be useful information for future VSP reporting. These reports would have to have personal information redacted, Darrell is going to contact Ocean Spray to see if it is possible to get these reports.
 - **Action Item:** Natalie and Anthony will prepare a draft of the biennium report for Work Group review at the next meeting.
- Future Meeting Dates and Topics

- The next meeting was scheduled for August 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The meetings will be held in the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be August 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

Summary of Motions:

1. Kyle Deerkop made a motion to approve the June 13, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
2. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the budget report as presented. A second was made by Jay Gordon. The motion passed by consensus.