

Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 P.M. October 10, 2019
County Commissioners Meeting Room
Montesano, WA

Attendees:

Work Group Members: Kyle Deerkop, (vice chair), Terry Moore, Logan Zepp, Gary Waltenburg, Ed Lagergren, Owen Shaffner

Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff: Natalie Osowski

Grays Harbor County Staff: Jane Hewitt

WSU Extension/Noxious Weeds: Kiley Smith

Work Group Members Absent: Darrell Haglund (excused), Terry Willis (excused), Jay Gordon (not excused)

Minutes:

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

Public Comments: There were no public comments

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

Old Business:

- Reading & Approval of Minutes
 - The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the August 15, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting. Gary Waltenburg made a motion to approve the August 15, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
- No business was conducted at the September 12, 2019 meeting due to lack of a quorum.
- Technical Service Provider Report
 - Natalie Osowski gave the Technical Service Provider report to the Work Group by updating the group on recent outreach events and training. Natalie sent out postcards about an agricultural education event called the "Twin Harbors Ag Summit" happening on October 22, 2019 from 6-8 PM at the Sharon Grange. The goal of this event is to provide agricultural landowners with information about programs offered and projects occurring in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. Natalie has invited the following entities to present at the event: Grays Harbor Conservation District, Pacific Conservation District, the Northwest Agriculture Business Center, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Washington State University Extension, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Farm Service Agency.

- Natalie attended Family Forest Field Day in McCleary on August 24th and handed out VSP brochures to participants. Natalie also attended the Wynoochee Knotweed event on August 28th put on by WSU Extension where she talked with attendees about VSP. The Grays Harbor Conservation District had a presentation to county commissioners on September 10 at which Natalie talked about the VSP.
- Natalie attended an Agroforestry workshop in Spokane September 17-18 where she learned about different Agroforestry practices including Riparian Forest Buffer, Windbreaks, Forest Farming, Alley Cropping, and Silvopasture. Natalie also attended Conservation Planning Part II training in Pullman September 23-27. This training provided the background needed to begin developing farm plans. Another part of this training is Conservation Planning Part III in which Natalie will be writing an actual farm plan for a landowner.
- One Individual Stewardship Plan checklist was completed since the August meeting.

New Business:

- Budget Report
 - The work group reviewed and discussed the budget report. This report showed the funds that have been spent through the month of September. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of September. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
- Grays Harbor County/GHCD Agreement Update
 - An update was given about the Interagency Agreement between the Grays Harbor Conservation District and Grays Harbor County to Implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program that was signed and went into effect September 1, 2019. The purpose of this agreement is for the county to meet its requirements for the implementation of VSP through the interagency agreement with the district.
- Potential Cost Share Project
 - The Work Group was presented with one cost share project candidate with landowner information redacted. The project candidate was numbered 17535 and was discussed by the members on whether the project meets the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
 - Terry Moore made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 17535. A second was made by Owen Shaffner The motion passed by consensus. The final cost share project contract will be signed by Terry Willis, the authorized signatory of the cost share contracts.

- Cost Share Project Scoring Criteria Worksheet
 - Natalie Osowski presented the work group with a Cost Share Project Scoring Criteria Worksheet. This worksheet was created in the event that the VSP has more potential cost share projects than funding available. The work group discussed the potential need for a cost share project scoring sheet. The work group decided to table the cost share scoring worksheet until the next meeting.

- Fence Post Driver Quotes
 - The work group discussed the possibility of purchasing a fence post driver to have available to landowners to rent. A fence post driver would be useful for landowners putting in permanent fencing for rotational grazing or other projects. It was suggested to come up with a budget and a plan to purchase the fence post driver in the spring. The work group decided to table this topic until the next meeting.

- Future Meeting Dates and Topics
 - The next meeting was scheduled for November 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioners Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM. Next meeting will be November 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

Summary of Motions:

1. Gary Waltenburg made a motion to approve the August 15, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
2. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of September. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
3. Terry Moore made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 17535. A second was made by Owen Shaffner The motion passed by consensus.