

# Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 P.M. November 14, 2019

County Commissioners Meeting Room

Montesano, WA

## Attendees:

**Work Group Members:** Kyle Deerkop, (vice chair), Terry Moore, Terry Willis (chair), Gary Waltenburg, Owen Shaffner, Darrell Haglund

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

**Grays Harbor County Staff:** Jane Hewitt, Alice Shawyer

**Work Group Members Absent:** Ed Lagergren (excused), Jay Gordon (not excused), Logan Zepp (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: Two items were added to the agenda if time allows. Item 6 is to be "Letter from Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director regarding the proposal of mandatory riparian buffers by the Centennial Accord. Item 7 is to be "Pioneer Participant Questions". Item 8 will be "Future Meeting Dates and Topics".

## Old Business:

- Reading & Approval of Minutes
  - The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the October 10, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting. Owen Shaffner made a motion to approve the October 10, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
- 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 and Terry Willis coordinated the "Twin Harbors Ag Summit" event on October 22, 2019 from 6-8 PM at the Sharon Grange. The event was well attended by approximately 40 landowners and 9 organization representatives. The goal of this event was to provide agricultural landowners with information about programs offered and projects occurring in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. The following entities presented 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 gave a VSP presentation to the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Back Country Horsemen on November 5, 2019. Twenty-two members attended the event. Natalie will be doing follow-up with the members to encourage them to fill out an ISP checklist.
- Natalie had a meeting with Dan Teuteberg, the Director of Grays Harbor County, Regional Specialist of 4-H Youth Development for Grays Harbor and Mason Counties. Dan originally wanted to meet to talk about program collaboration. Dan is wanting to start up a Natural Resource program for 4-H youth. This program would introduce youth into the natural resource career field. Natalie told Dan about the VSP Work Plan. One goal in the Work Plan is titled: Educating and Recruiting our Next Farmers. One of the examples of stewardship activities is to Promote 4-H and FFA programs throughout the county by sharing information through literature or presentations. This natural resource youth program, along with VSP would be a great way to address both programs' goals.
- Three site visits were conducted where VSP was introduced to the landowner. No Individual Stewardship Plan checklists were completed since the last meeting.

#### Presentation:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) High Resolution Change Detection (HRCD) Aerial Imagery Analysis Presentation by Kenneth Pierce Jr, WDFW Landscape Spatial Analytics Section Lead
  - A presentation was given by Kenneth Pierce Jr regarding the HRCD aerial imagery analysis that was contract for the VSP. Ken gave an overview about how the analysis is performed and what changes in vegetation occurred from 2011-2017. Overall, there was not much change in vegetation in Grays Harbor county. Most of the changes occurred in forested lands due to logging and some changes were from stream migration. Ken handed out a draft of reports 1 & 2 and will send the final copy of the reports once they are completed. It was suggested to incorporate the National Wetlands Inventory mapping layer into the analysis to show the changes in vegetation in wetland areas. WDFW has contracted with the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to continue mapping through 2019/2020.

#### 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 October. Terry Moore made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of October. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
- Letter from Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director regarding the Centennial Accord meeting about riparian buffers

- A discussion was held regarding the Centennial Accord meeting about riparian buffers. There is concern that mandatory riparian buffers will decrease voluntary landowner participation with riparian restoration.
  
- Pioneer Participant Questions
  - There wasn't enough time to address this item. Natalie was given direction to send the questions out to the Work Group via email. These questions are to be used when interviewing a potential Pioneer Participant.
    - Action Item: Natalie will send the Pioneer Participant Questions to the Work Group via email.
  
- Discussion about outreach
  - There was some discussion about ways to improve outreach. It was suggested to do a direct mailing to landowners and ask what kind of equipment is needed. This information will be used to help decide what kind of rental equipment to purchase.
  
- Future Meeting Dates and Topics
  - The next meeting was scheduled for January 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioners Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM. Next meeting will be January 9, 2020 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 October 10, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
2. Terry Moore made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of October. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.