

Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 P.M. January 9th, 2020
County Commissioners Meeting Room
Montesano, WA

Attendees:

Work Group Members: Terry Moore, Terry Willis (chair), Gary Waltenburg, Darrell Haglund, Jay Gordon

Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff: Natalie Osowski

Grays Harbor County Staff: Alice Shawyer

WSU Extension, Noxious Weeds: Kiley Smith

Work Group Members Absent: Ed Lagergren (not excused), Owen Shaffner (not excused), Logan Zepp (not excused), Kyle Deerkop (excused)

Minutes:

The Grays Harbor County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Group Meeting was called to order at 6:31 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 7 is to be "WSU Agritourism Workshop Event". Item 8 is to be "WDFW High Resolution Change Detection Discussion". Item 9 will be "Future Meeting Dates and Topics".

Old Business:

- Reading & Approval of Minutes
 - The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the November 14, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting. Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the November 14, 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 has been attending the Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Board monthly meetings and discussing potential collaboration events with WSU Extension. Natalie has been working with Kiley Smith to come up with outreach event ideas such as a Farm Tour, a Succession Planning Workshop, a Pollinator Workshop, and a No-Till Drill Workshop. Natalie gave a VSP presentation at a Conservation District event called "Coffee with the Conservation District". There were three attendees including one work group member. One attendee filled out an ISP checklist and set up a site visit.

- Natalie completed and submitted a farm plan as a part of coursework for becoming a certified planner.
- Two ISP checklists were completed since the November meeting.
- The quarterly report for October-December 2019 was submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission.
- Kiley Smith gave an update about the Noxious Weed Board. On February 3rd, 2020 at 11:30 there will be an open public comment period regarding the Grays Harbor County Weed List. The board meeting will follow the comment period and VSP Work Group members are encouraged to attend. The Chehalis River Cooperative Weed Management Area group met in December 2019 after a brief hiatus. This is a collaborative group including noxious weed boards, conservation districts, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and other entities to management weeds in the Chehalis River Basin.

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 November. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of January. A second was made by Gary Waltenburg. The motion passed by consensus.
- Potential Cost Share Projects
 - The Work Group was presented with one cost share project involving a critical area planting. Landowner information was redacted from the documents being reviewed. The project was numbered 10552 and was discussed by the members on whether the project meets the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
 - Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 10552. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. 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.
 - The Work Group was presented with another cost share project involving a critical area planting. Landowner information was redacted from the documents being reviewed. The project was numbered 17424 and was discussed by the members on whether the project meets the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
 - Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 17424. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. 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.

- Equipment Rental Ideas
 - There was discussion about purchasing rental equipment. In December, Natalie sent out a survey to landowners asking for input about equipment needed. There was a total of 4 responses. Some equipment ideas included manure spreader, lime spreader, no-till drill, fencing equipment, flail mower, disk, harrow, seeder, and hay/soil sampling probe.
 - It was suggested that the VSP should focus on project work instead of purchasing rental equipment. If there is funding left over towards the end of the biennium, the VSP could consider purchasing equipment at that time.

- WSU Extension Agritourism Event, January 11, 2020
 - Alice Shawyer spoke about the upcoming Agritourism event put on by WSU Extension. There is some concern about Agritourism and how it will interact with the county code. Alice is doing a presentation at the event on behalf of the county.

- WDFW High Resolution Change Detection Discussion
 - There was a discussion regarding WDFW's presentation about High Resolution Change Detection at the November 2019 meeting. Ken Pierce Jr., WDFW Landscape Spatial Analytics Section Lead, mentioned a county road being moved and showing up as a change in vegetation. Since this change in vegetation was not attributed to agricultural activities, it does not count against the VSP.

- Discussion about Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP) Workshops
 - There was a discussion about the ASRP and how VSP could pick up the smaller projects from the ASRP. There are some ASRP workshops scheduled in the coming months and it was suggested that there be a VSP presentation at these workshops.

- Discussion about letter to legislature supporting the Satsop Restoration Project
 - There was a discussion about writing a letter to the legislatures from the VSP Work Group supporting the Satsop Restoration Project. This letter will be written by VSP Work Group member Jay Gordon from the Dairy Federation.

- Future Meeting Dates and Topics
 - The next meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioners Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM. Next meeting will be February 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioner's Room in Montesano, WA.

Summary of Motions:

1. Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 VSP Work Group meeting minutes. A second was made by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.
2. Darrell Haglund made a motion to approve the Budget Report for the month of January. A second was made by Gary Waltenburg. The motion passed by consensus.
3. Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 10552. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
4. Jay Gordon made a motion to approve the potential cost share project numbered 17424. A second was made by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.