

# Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 P.M. February 13th, 2020  
County Commissioners Meeting Room  
Montesano, WA

## **Attendees:**

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

**Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff:** Natalie Osowski

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

**Work Group Members Absent:** 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 Chair Terry Willis.

Public Comments and Announcements: Gary Waltenburg made an announcement about the Oyster Dinner held April 18th at the Sharon Grange.

Changes to the agenda: Two items were added to the agenda. Item 10 is to be "Advertising Opportunities". Item 11 is to be "Agritourism Update".

## Old Business:

- Reading & Approval of Minutes
  - The Work Group reviewed the minutes from the January 9, 2020 VSP Work Group meeting. There was a request to remove the sentence "Agritourism falls under the General Development 5 code." from the minutes. Darrell Haglund moved to approve the January 9, 2020 VSP Work Group meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded 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 meetings and outreach events. Natalie has been attending meetings including the WSU Cranberry Workshop, Marine Resource Committee meeting, and the Grays Harbor County Noxious Weed Board meeting. Natalie is hosting a succession planning event with WSU Extension Forestry called "Ties to the Land". This event will be held March 27th from 9AM-4PM at the Montesano City Hall. Natalie is hoping to have a No-Till Drill workshop in mid-April.
  - One ISP checklist was completed and one ISP plan was completed this month.
  - There was a discussion about using VSP funds for scholarships to the "Ties to the Land" Succession Planning event. There is a \$45 registration fee and there

was discussion that this fee may hinder some landowners from participating in the event. Kyle Deerkop moved to approve providing \$450 in scholarships for the “Ties to the Land” Succession Planning event, pending that the Washington State Conservation Commission approves the spending of the funds. Terry Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

#### 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 January. Terry Moore moved to approve the Budget Report for the month of February. The motion was seconded by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
  
- Cost Share Project Updates
  - Natalie Osowski gave an update about the VSP Cost Share Projects. The cost share project numbered 17424 involving a Critical Area Planting was unable to start the project due to medical reasons. At future meetings Natalie will provide a cost share project budget spreadsheet.
  
- Pioneer Participant
  - There was discussion about Pioneer Participant candidates Heather and Zak Smith of the Lincoln watershed. Pioneer Participants are respected leaders in the community who are prone to be early adopters of innovative practices and willing to share their VSP experiences publicly with others. Heather and Zak completed a questionnaire and their answers were provided to the VSP Work Group for review. Natalie and Terry visited the Smiths at their farm in November 2019. It was suggested that Heather and Zak attend a future Work Group meeting as the next step in this process.
  
- New Work Group Member Recruitment
  - Work Group member Logan Zepp will no longer be able to participate in the group effective May 1st. Logan will continue to participate in the Work Group until May 1st. It will be his responsibility to find his replacement.
  
- Targeted Outreach & Future Events
  - Natalie Osowski talked about the potential for targeted outreach after receiving the WDFW High Resolution Change Detection analysis. The analysis revealed that most of the change in vegetation was due to stream movement and county road construction. Natalie suggested that the group also look into what watersheds conservation practices are being implemented. She is working on compiling a spreadsheet with this information. The VSP Work Group will need to continue to look towards the future and the potential for adaptive management of the program.

- Natalie presented an advertising option for VSP. The Community Farmland Trust prints the “South Sound Direct Sales Farm Map” directory that is distributed to various agricultural businesses in the South Sound area. This directory includes information about farms in Grays Harbor county. There is advertising space available and Thurston Conservation District had printed an ad about VSP in the 2019 edition of the directory. There was discussion about advertising options and it was suggested to advertise in local publications such as the Vidette. It was also suggested to interview with the local radio stations.
- Discussion about WSU Extension Agritourism event
  - Alice Shawyer presented on behalf of Grays Harbor County at the WSU Extension Agritourism event held January 11, 2020. Terry Willis also attended the event and spoke about the VSP. Alice and Terry gave a debriefing about the event.
- Discussion about providing VSP flyer in Grays Harbor County Pre-Development letter
  - Alice Shawyer asked for approval to send a VSP flyer with Grays Harbor County Pre-Development letters. A discussion followed. Owen Shaffner moved to approve sending a VSP flyer with the Grays Harbor County Pre-Development letter. The motion was seconded by Gary Waltenburg. The motion passed by consensus.
- Discussion about letter to legislature supporting the Satsop Restoration Project
  - There was a discussion about the letter to the legislature supporting the Satsop Restoration Project. This letter was written by Work Group member Jay Gordon from the Dairy Federation. Owen Shaffner moved to approve the letter supporting the Satsop Restoration Project as written. The motion was seconded by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus. The letter was signed by vice chair Kyle Deerkop.
- Future Meeting Dates and Topics
  - The next meeting was scheduled for March 12, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioners Room in Montesano, WA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Next meeting will be March 12, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the County Commissioner’s Room in Montesano, WA.

**Summary of Motions:**

1. Darrell Haglund moved to approve the January 9, 2020 VSP Work Group meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Terry Moore. The motion passed by consensus.

2. Kyle Deerkop moved to approve providing \$450 in scholarships for the “Ties to the Land” Succession Planning event, pending that the Washington State Conservation Commission approves the spending of the funds. Terry Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.
3. Terry Moore moved to approve the Budget Report for the month of February. The motion was seconded by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.
4. Owen Shaffner moved to approve sending a VSP flyer with the Grays Harbor County Pre-Development letter. The motion was seconded by Gary Waltenburg. The motion passed by consensus.
5. Owen Shaffner moved to approve the letter supporting the Satsop Restoration Project as written. The motion was seconded by Darrell Haglund. The motion passed by consensus.