

Grays Harbor VSP Work Group Meeting

6:30 PM August 13, 2020

Remote Phone Conference Meeting

Attendees:

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

Grays Harbor Conservation District Staff: Lorenzo Churape, Anthony Waldrop

Washington State Conservation Commission: Levi Keesecker

Grays Harbor County: Jane Hewitt

WSU Extension: Kiley Smith

Work Group Members Absent: Owen Shaffner (not excused), Ed Lagergren (not excused)
Gary Waltenburg (not excused), Kyle Deerkop (vice chair) (not excused)

Minutes:

The Grays Harbor County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Group Meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM by Chair Terry Willis.

New VSP Specialist, Lorenzo Churape, introduced himself to the Work Group and got to hear from the members.

Public Comments and Announcements: No public comment or announcements

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

Old Business:

- Reading & Approval of Minutes
 - The Work Group was unable to review the June meeting minutes as there was a lack of a quorum present at the meeting. June and August minutes will have to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Technical Service Provider Report
 - Lorenzo Churape gave the Technical Service Provider report to the Work Group by updating the group on the status of completed cost share projects, the No-Till Drill, and the upcoming 5 Year Report.
 - All cost share projects were working well and landowners had no complaints
 - There is interest in new projects. Lorenzo is meeting with Gavin, the Area Engineer, to discuss possibilities.
 - The No-Till Drill has not had much use recently. It is used more frequently in the Fall and Spring. Mr. Zepp is thinking of advertising the drill to raise awareness.
 - Lorenzo is looking into the 5 Year Report requirements and figuring out where it was left off. He is also working with SCC and DFW for report data.
 - Lorenzo Churape started as the new VSP Specialist August 3, 2020.

New Business:

- Future Meeting Dates and Topics
 - The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM via phone conference.
- Good of The Order
 - Levi Keesecker informed the Work Group that progress has been made on the 5 Year Report template. He is planning on hosting a VSP Monitoring Forum on September 8, 2020. The purpose will be to have some conservation districts inform others how they are handling monitoring the VSP Benchmarks and outreach programs. The goal is for VSP Groups to learn from one another and perhaps adopt some adaptive management techniques.

Discussion:

- Work Group Vacancy
 - The Work Group discussed filling the vacancy of one work group member. Darrell Haglund submitted the following names to the work group for consideration: Chuck Nation; cranberry grower, Don Harders; shellfish grower. Terry will work with Darrell to interview the potential members and present the results at the next work group meeting.
- Open Space Discussion
 - Darrell clarified some points on the Open Space discussion from the last meeting.
- Future meetings
 - The possibility of holding future meetings over Zoom (video conferencing) was discussed. Those who lack video capability could still call in on a phone to participate in meetings. An alternative to phone and video conferencing is socially distanced meetings.
- Unhappy Landowner
 - Lorenzo mentioned that he encountered an unhappy landowner while out on a site visit. The landowner seems to be misinformed on the conservation district's projects and goals. He blames the district for projects he is not happy with. Reaching out to this landowner and providing him accurate information was discussed.
- New VSP Specialist
 - The Work Group had the opportunity to ask Lorenzo some questions and get to know him better. Jay provided a good summary of VSP and how it came to be. Anthony commented on the hiring process for Lorenzo.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM by Chair Terry Willis. Next meeting will be September 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM via phone conference.

Summary of Motions:

There were no motions due to the lack of a quorum.