Voluntary Stewardship Program
Technical Panel Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2017
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Facilitator – Ron Shultz, Policy Director, WSCC

Attendees in Lacey: Alicia McClendon, WSCC; Ron Shultz, WSCC

Webinar: Barbara Adkins, Renee Hadley, Brandon Roozen, Kelly Rupp, Michael See, Kelly McLain, Amy Windrope, Lauren Driscoll, Bill Blake, Danielle DeVoe, Heather Kosaka, Evan Sheffels, John Stuhlmiller, Ryan Walters, Ron Wesen, Dan Berentson

VSP TECHNICAL PANEL MEETING

Take a vote on the Skagit County work plan.

1:30 pm: Opening Comments, Introductions, Session Objective & Agenda

Ron informs attendees that Technical Panel member Brian Cochrane could not attend and asked for Ron to take his place at this meeting.

1:35 pm: VSP Program update – Ron Shultz, WSCC

Budget update: WSCC received $7.62 million for VSP in the Operating Budget. Working on a budget for VSP and getting contracts to counties. Two kinds of contracts: Counties with approved VSP Work Plans – focusing on implementation. The other is to the counties that are still working to complete work plans. Addressing those in deliverables.

A provision in the budget amended the review time from 45 days to 90 days. You will be hearing more from us in terms of your individual agencies needs as we move forward in the biennia.

Ron also notes that there was a provision in the UW budget that provides funding to the Ruckelshaus Center to do a review of GMA. Folks from Ruckelshaus have met with different agencies to start that discussion. All aspects of GMA are open. Ruckelshaus holding a series of meetings about different aspects of GMA for review. We will get more information for you on that, but something worth keeping in mind as it may touch on our book of business. Other questions?

Amy Windrope: Is Bill present?

Ron Shultz: Bill Eller is on vacation.

Amy: Given the 90 days, I can’t remember from our last conversation, but does that change our Whitman schedule or Pacific schedule? I think we were all scheduled up, but didn’t we have some kind of placeholder just in case we didn’t get the 90 days?

Ron: Yeah, so it would not apply to Whitman and Pacific. They are still on the 45 days. Any submitted after July 1 will be on the 90 day calendar.

Amy: Ok, I just wanted to make sure there were no changes coming.
Ron: Yeah, I’m glad you asked so folks can plan their schedules accordingly to review the Pacific and Whitman VSP submittals. Those are moving forward – we have those posted and sent a message out for public input. Next meeting is July 18 to discuss any issues or concerns.

Amy: My new position starts on the 17th. Whitman and Pacific’s review is on the 18th. I don’t think my replacement will be ready but I’d like to have Matt Muller come with me. I don’t want to make Matt the official replacement, but if he is available, I’d like him to do the voting at our August 4th meeting.

Ron: I think that will be fine.

**1:45 pm: Discussion and vote – Skagit County work plan**

Ron: Thank you to the folks at Skagit - addressed a lot of concerns I had raised related to review. Described incorporation of the regulatory elements of CAOs and that they more clearly integrate in the review process the regulatory elements. Pages 42 & 43 – made changes and described goals and applicable regulations, benchmarks, metrics, response, triggers. Hit on the concerns about making sure that they’re articulating that the regulations would now be part of this review process every 5 years. Brian says that they concerns he raised in terms of monitoring and other elements were addressed and is comfortable with the plan now.

Lauren: Thanks Skagit. They did a great job addressing things. I liked the way the talked about the regs and how they might be managed the future. Framed up critical area. The one question I did have – I noticed the outreach goals were removed.

Ron: I noticed that too

Amy: No they weren’t removed, they just got rid of that top line.

Kelly: It seemed to me that they changed them to reflect the concerns we had at the last meeting about how it was structured…. [seeks help from Ron remembering the context] If you get to 50 every year during the time cycle of the next 5, does that get us to where we need to be because there is no context around it? I felt like removing it wasn’t a bad thing, they just don’t have a counted metric against it because it doesn’t have a context.

Amy: But the others have context that reflect their historical patterns, which I thought was a better approach anyway.

Lauren: Yeah, I see that, and I’m glad that they gave that what they based it on – that was definitely something that was missing before.

Ron: Would be nice to know what some targets are for outreach contacts so we know what pace they are going at, but not a deal breaker for me.

Panel agrees.

Kelly: probably will end up reporting back, what that would look like from an outreach standpoint but not a deal breaker in the plan if they don’t have it.

Lauren likes addition on page 86 that talks about the different plans and how VSP fits into those.

Panel agrees.

Laurens concerns have been addressed.

Kelly: I think they’ve covered the things that I was most concerned about. Made the plan meet the construct of the statute.
Amy: Not a lot of concerns, but think it is better now and the comments from TP have resulted in a better plan that meets the intent, goals and approach.

Ron: Sounds like all four agencies concur that the Skagit County VSP Work Plan is recommended for approval and signature by the Commission Director – is the correct?

Kelly: Do we need to do a formal vote like we’ve done for the other counties?

Ron: Yes, go ahead and do a vote. All those in favor of accepting the Skagit Work Plan and making a recommendation for approval and signing to the Commission Director say aye.

TP unanimously: Aye

Ron: Anyone oppose? Hearing none, we will transmit this to the Commission Director.

Amy: Is Skagit on the phone?

Ron: They are muted, but can unmute themselves if they’d like to say something.

Dan Berentson: Dan Berentson and Mike See on the same line. Ryan in DC listening and possibly able to speak. Thank you very much, we’ve enjoyed the process and appreciate your comments and review. We agree that at the end of the line, it’s a better work plan.

Kelly: WSDA is very excited to see VSP implemented in Skagit County.

Ron: Thanks for fast turn around and addressing our concerns. Alicia will draft up the appropriate letters for transmittal and we will get that moved on.

1:50 pm: Adjourn