Voluntary Stewardship Program
Joint Technical Panel & Statewide Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 29, 2019
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Facilitator – Bill Eller, VSP Coordinator, WSCC

Attendees in Lacey: Lauren Driscoll, Mary Huff, Matt Stevenson, Charissa Waters, Ron Shultz, Kelly McLain, John Stuhlmiller, Brian Cochrane, Alicia McClendon

Webinar: Barbara Adkins, Meagan Bailey, Alexandra Case-Cohen, Dean Hellie, Amy Martin, Wes McCart, Aaron Rosenblum, Ron Wesen

9:05 am: VSP Program update – Bill Eller, Ron Shultz, WSCC
- Policy Advisory 05-18 - guidance on 5 year report content - edits
- VSP & 2 year / 5 year reports – draft WAC chapter - status
- Next joint meeting
- Wednesday, August 7

Ron Shultz gave an update on the status of the VSP budget for FY 19-21. He indicated that we'll have substantially the same level of funding as in prior years, which includes a slight increase from $220,000 to $240,000 per county, for the biennia. The $1.5M request to assist six non-VSP counties with their “VSP-like” programs was not funded. Agencies (WDFW, ECY, WSDA) should receive $200,000 for the biennia. HRCD for the WDFW was funded, as per the request.

Ron Shultz also brought up that the Puget Sound Ecosystem coordination committee is doing an effectiveness study of the non-VSP county critical area ordinances, and that it might be good to have an update on that for the SAC / TP.

Mary Huff confirmed that former Technical Panel member Keith Folkerts is conducting the study.

Bill Eller presented the other items. There has been no progress on Policy Advisory 05-18 edits and the draft WAC chapter due to Commission staff workload. There will be a webinar for county and conservation district staff and all persons who are interested in the county-SCC contract for VSP implementation for the FY’s 19-21 on June 7, 2019, from 9 am – 10:30 am (to register, please go to this link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1019887593503735299).
He explained that the Commission is preparing to receive the two year VSP status reports from all 27 VSP counties. He explained that the two year status reports should be sent as PDF’s by email to beller@scc.wa.gov, and should be “cc-ed” to AMcClendon@scc.wa.gov. Upon receipt by the Commission, a confirmation email will be send back to the sender. Please keep in mind that the two year reports will be posted on the Commission’s VSP web page.

The next joint SAC/TP meeting will be August 7, 2019, 9 am -12 noon. Here at the Farm Bureau Office.

9:30 am: Presentation by Thurston County on their 2 year and 5 year reporting – Thurston County VSP work group representative

Charissa Waters, Thurston County staff and Matt Stevenson, CORE GIS, consultant are here to present.

Charissa Waters begins the PowerPoint presentation. Starts with an overview of the participating watersheds.

Matt Stevenson presents details related to monitoring and aerial monitoring that they will provide in their two year and five year report.

Charissa Waters explains that there are a number of adaptive management actions that the Thurston County work group is proposing or has proposed. The Technical Panel discusses how to best document those in their reporting.

Lauren Driscoll said that it would be best if the change would be identified in the report, along with the original section of the work plan that it is changing.

Brian Cochrane agrees and emphasizes that it would be best if the report provides the original language, the change in language, and then the explanation of the change all in the same spot so the Technical Panel members do not have to refer to other sections of the report or work plan to understand the change.

Bill Eller says that the five year report for Thurston County is due July 20, 2019, and that it is his understanding that Thurston County will submit the two year report along with the five year report, even though the two year report isn’t due until August 30, 2019. Bill Eller explains that the reports should be submitted as electronically to the
Commission as PDF’s by email to beller@scc.wa.gov, and should be “cc-ed” to AMcClendon@scc.wa.gov. Upon receipt by the Commission, a confirmation email will be send back to the sender. He said that he would have further communications with both Thurston and Chelan counties as we move closer to their report submittal deadlines.

10:30 am:    Adjourned