

MEETING MINUTES

VSP WATERSHED WORK GROUP

March 27, 2018 | 6:00 – 7:45 PM

Mason Conservation District
450 West Business Park Road * Shelton, WA

ATTENDANCE

Members: William Short, Allan Borden, Laurie Hager, Michelle McCallum and Jeanne Rehwaldt

Mason Conservation District Staff: Barbara Adkins*

Facilitator: John Kliem, Creative Community Solutions

AGENDA

MISSION STATEMENT

- Review Mission Statement

INFORMAL REVIEW

- Discuss comments received from Technical Panel

DRAFT WORK PLAN

- Discuss Group's comments on Work Plan

PLAN SUBMISSION

- Vote on recommending submission of Work Plan to WCC – Due April 13, 2018

MINUTES

Mission Statement

During January's meeting with the Work Group, several suggestions were made to create a Mission Statement for program that captures our local vision. A partial Statement was generated at the meeting, and the remaining suggestions were collected by District Staff for further consideration at the next meeting. Staff, together with our facilitator, drafted three statements from all the ideas collected and brought them to the Work Group for discussion. The following statements are those as presented at the meeting:

- 1) To launch collaborative solutions which preserve nature and protect natural resources while supporting both agricultural enterprises and critical areas for all who reside in Mason County and the Community. This program strives to improve our agricultural economy through increased environmental stewardship and sustainable working farms.
- 2) The Mason County Voluntary Stewardship Program helps local landowners engaged in commercial and small-scale agriculture to voluntarily conserve our County's natural resources for the benefit of the entire community.

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- 3) The Mason County Voluntary Stewardship Program helps local farmers voluntarily conserve our County's natural resources through good stewardship practices on the land.

After a brief discussion, the Work Group chose Statement #3 as being the best choice and most succinctly representing their perspective of the Program. The Mission Statement will be incorporated into the Work Plan and all outreach materials.

Informal Review

District Staff and the Group's facilitator were both in attendance at the informal review with the WCC's Technical Panel. At this point in the review process, the Panel has asked that Work Plan's not be submitted for an informal review, and instead only a PowerPoint presentation of specific Work Plan items of interest be submitted. Staff presented several of the tables in the draft Plan that included goals, benchmarks, strategies and adaptive management as these items are most often subject to criticism. Overall the feedback received from the Panel was helpful and edits to the Plan were made in response to them.

Draft Work Plan

A hard copy of the entire draft Work Plan was mailed to each Work Group member and consultants to review in preparation for formal submission to the Panel. Tables within the Plan that addressed goals and benchmarks had been revised since the mailing of the Plan and new copies were provided to Work Group members at this meeting. In response to comments received from the Panel, strategies were removed from the tables as well as from the text of the Plan as not being necessary or useful; and the benchmarks were revised as they were not measurable and were thus changed to meet that criterion. Another change made based on Panel comments was the inclusion of additional agriculture acres not previously reflected in the baseline calculations. The Washington Department of Agriculture conducts crop surveys every two to three years of agricultural land uses not necessarily occurring on agriculturally designated lands. The results of their surveys were included into the Plan's baseline and increased the County's agriculture acres from 6,500 to just over 9,000. The Work Group was overall supportive of the Work Plan and the changes that were discussed during the meeting.

Plan Submission

Co-Vice Chair Rehwaldt called for a motion recommending submittal of the Draft Work Plan to the WCC Technical Panel. A motion was made, seconded, and was unanimously passed. The Work Plan will now be submitted to the Panel no later than April 13, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

The Group's next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 24, 2018** at the Mason Conservation District Office.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

***Barbara Adkins, AICP ♦ VSP Contact**
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