

Meeting Minutes

VSP Watershed Work Group

July 12, 2022 | 4:00 to 5:05 PM

450 West Business Park Road, Shelton, WA & Via Zoom

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview

Attendance: Barbara Adkins (Mason CD VSP Coordinator), Larry Boltz, (Chair, agricultural operator), Michelle McCallum (agricultural operator), Nick Schneider (Mason CD Farm Planner), Jacob Murrey (WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator), Myrn Stewart (agricultural operator), and Kell Rowen (Mason County Community Services).

Elect Chair:

Larry Boltz and Carmen Echeverria served as co-chairs in prior Work Group meetings when the larger group was meeting, and approvals were needed. Since then, attendance has been down, and it was decided by the Group that Larry Boltz will serve a sole Work Group chair due to his ability to attend meetings more routinely.

Public Comment:

No members of the public in attendance

State Building Construction Account – Cost Share Funding

- FY 21-23 \$235,000 per county to fund work group, outreach & education, monitoring, recording, reporting, seek funding, ensure statutory compliance – none for implementation
- FY 22-23 – implementation - \$3 million State Building Construction Account-State
 - All for on the ground projects
 - Certain criteria apply
 - First come, first served
- VSP Supplemental Budget Guidelines

Promoting the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of natural resources for future generations.

- Procedures for counties and CDs for cost share to eligible landowners for VSP projects
- Use existing SCC procedures with VSP specific criteria
- SCC reviews each application and monitor if criteria is affecting number of projects requesting
- Maximum cost share per landowner per fiscal year is \$50,000
- BMPs must have at least at 10-year design life
- Required Funding Criteria:
 - Be in VSP Watershed
 - Address salmon habitat resource needs/impact – provide a demonstrable benefit to salmon habitat by addressing resource needs or impacts. (projects that reduce stream temperature, increase shade, address instream habitat, riparian area exclusion fencing, and/or remove barriers to fish passage)
 - Meet VSP work Plan goal or benchmark
 - Completed by June 30, 2023
 - Must have approval at an open public meeting of the work group prior to submittal
- Supplemental funding criteria: optional but could add more points
 - Project within county nominated priority watershed
 - Projects clustered together or near other previously funded projects
 - Projects identified by other agency or tribe as a priority
 - Projects in 303(d) listed areas for temperature
 - Projects with tribal partners
 - Projects with ancillary benefits to other critical areas
- Funding awarded on monthly basis
- Submit proposals in August, commission meets July 21

The cost share process was discussed with the Work Group and Nick Schneider provided some example materials for reference. He went over how Technical Reports are formatted and the type of information included in them as currently presented to the District's Board of Supervisors. This new supplement budget is under the control of the VSP Work Group, instead of the Board of Supervisors, and their input on how information is received is important to establish before beginning the review and approval process. The Work Group has asked to receive the Technical Report at least one week prior to voting and approval, and that as much visual information be included as possible without violating the landowner's confidentiality. There was a brief discussion on the reason behind landowner confidentiality and laws behind it.

Work Group Member Recruitment

Updated on the Work Group on efforts to recruit new members. New member attending this meeting from WRIA 14 Lead Entity. More members would be beneficial to the overall decision-making process going forward.

Monitoring/Adaptive Management

Brief update to the Work Group on continuing efforts to establish a credible monitoring system for the next 5-Year Report due in 2025.

Schedule Regular Meetings

Since the Work Group has not met regularly in more than a year, a date was chosen for the next meeting, but no regular schedule has been established yet. Next Work Group meeting July 26, 2022, at 4:00 pm at the District office.

Next Steps and Adjourn

The Work Group will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, July 26 at 4:00 to review cost share projects and vote to approve and forward some or all to the WA Conservation Commission for possible funding.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm