

Watershed Group Meeting notes for March 25th, 2022

Attendants: CJ Jones, Brian L, Emmett Wild, Bill Blake, Bill Dewey, Mike See, Brandon Roozen, Jason Vander Kooy, Ron Wesen, Jeff Schwab

Welcome & Introductions

Statewide Perspective

Quarterly Monitoring Symposiums

- April 27th 0900-1130

Joint VSP Technical Panel & Statewide Advisory Committee Meetings

- April 14th is next session
- Skagit will present at the May 12th session

Skagit Conservation District Interlocal Agreements

New VSP Inter Local Agreement

- Three new projects – two hedgerows and one HUAP
- Wesen: What is the timeline on spending the funds?
 - o Blake: One planting season
- Blake: Not enough funding available to fill number of possible projects
 - o Roozen: Plantings are a good use of money if the plants are available
 - o Blake: There is \$1.3 million available this year for seedlings, but it is a space issue for nurseries.
 - o Roozen: Perhaps there is a possibility to get landowner participation in helping grow the seedlings.

Skagit VSP Updates

New Watershed Group Members

- Two new members were chosen, and they will be around for the next meeting.
 - o Schwab: We should maintain a diversity of people on the Group
 - o Blake: Are there other VSP groups that we can learn from regarding their Watershed Group composition?
 - Roozen: Ever county is different in how they implement VSP, it might be worthwhile to delve into the Watershed Group members at the Commission level.
 - Wesen: Some Watershed Groups cover multiple counties. It is important to adapt as we see fit for our needs.

Open Discussion / Questions

- Wesen: There is a need to increase public outreach.
 - o Blake: We may look to the NOAA change detection process as a way to reach out to individuals on the ground.
 - o Wesen: Clean Samish is a good example of how relationship building can be done.
 - o Roozen: Peer-to-peer outreach is key.
 - o Wesen: We should talk to other organizations that do it well.
 - o Schwab: Video content can have a major impact, and should be used to increase public awareness.
 - o Blake: Videos can be posted on Conservation District's new Youtube.
 - o Roozen: there are folks at the Commission available to help.
- Wesen: Emmett mentioned the hedgerow planting, how long will the hedges take to provide cover?
 - o Wild: Three to five years.
 - o Wild: They are non-riparian in this case, but help with soil and wind erosion.
 - o Wesen: Hedges might be a good thing for property owners to understand more about.

Watershed Group Future Meeting Schedule

In-person

- Future meetings will be held in-person with a call-in option.
- Next meeting will be in the middle of May.

Adjourn