

Watershed Group Meeting Notes
Quarter 3; September 23, 2022

1) Introductions

- a) *Met Brandon Roozen and Commissioner Wesen in person. Brian Lipscomb and Bill Blake joined virtually.*
- b) *Natural Resource Division staff joined: Karen, Cha, CJ, Cindy and Mike.*
- c) *Brandon recommended visiting other members at their homes/farms as it is difficult for folks to join in the middle of a workday.*

2) Initial Goals for VSP

- a) *Group agreed on the importance of active outreach, suggested meeting with groups like the Western Washington Agricultural Association, Skagit Watershed Council, etc.*
 - i) *Kate emphasized meeting growers where they are as opposed to expecting folks to show up to the Watershed Group meetings. Need more representation of growers' input on the watershed group. Explore the possibility of less formal meetings to better engage these folks regularly.*
 - ii) *Kate will follow-up with Brandon on opportunities to meet with growers individually or via community groups.*
- b) *Group agreed with the importance of finding the potential intersections between other County and local programs and VSP to better capture all the voluntary practices in Skagit County.*
 - i) *Cha explained the goals Stormwater Interdisciplinary Group. Kate will consider developing an interdisciplinary group at the County that meets regularly to review projects. Meeting regularly may allow for better coordination and reporting for VSP.*

3) Statewide perspective – *No further updates from Brandon or Commissioner Wesen.*

4) Skagit Conservation District project updates: Cover Crops – *Kate gave a brief overview of this fall's enrollment with information provided by Emmett.*

- a) *Brandon suggested trying to report on all growers who plant cover crops, not just those who are enrolled in the CD's program. These numbers will give a better picture of the voluntary stewardship by growers across the county.*
 - i) *Kate will reach out to CD about capturing this data. Brandon suggested asking Skagit Farm Supply about how many acres they have planted this fall.*
- b) *Commissioner Wesen stressed that every season is different, thus some years a farmer may be able to get a cover crop in and others they cannot. The weather is out of their hands.*

5) VSP Supplemental Funding project applications

- a) *Group was enthusiastic about these projects. Agreed that smaller projects already in motion from local partners are the best avenue for this funding source.*

b) Important to show partnership with local fisheries enhancement group (SFEG) and the County's Natural Resource Stewardship Program.

6) Questions & Discussion

a) Commissioner Wesen suggested interfacing regularly with the tech panel and the folks that will ultimately review the final report.

b) Brandon stressed the importance of demonstrating the success of projects through actual fish counts rather than just the # of acres planted, etc. These numbers would be more impactful for growers.

c) Mike suggested Kate attend the next Nookachamps watershed planning meeting. He will coordinate with Kate.

7) Housekeeping Items

a) Next meeting

i) Kate will send a follow-up email with the date. Likely early November.

b) Future topics

i) Members can reach out via email to share any thoughts on future meetings.

8) Adjourn