**San Juan Islands Conservation District**

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**San Juan County Voluntary Stewardship Program**

**Work Group Meeting Agenda**

October 15, 2020

9:00 – 10:45 am.

Workgroup Present: Vicki Heater, Brook Brouwer, Faith Van De Putte, Bruce Gregory, Learner Limbach, Cathi Winings, Matt Claussen, Bill Eller, Levi Keesacker, Leslie Michel, Matt Claussen

Agenda:

**1).  9:00 – 9:10:**  Guidance for the Five-Year Reporting.  This document outlines the process for submitting the report and review process.  It should be noted that this report is focused on the protection and/or enhancement of critical areas, not agricultural viability.  A bit more comprehensive report will likely be necessary to the workgroup in a narrative format to address the goals around ag viability, water quality, etc.  The template used for this report is a database format submitted online.

**2) 9:10 – 9:30**:   Input table for 5-year report:  Cathi Winings (SJICD) has been working on this and will provide an overview. Attached is a table that will be used to complete the 5-year report. The purpose of the report is to assert whether or not we have met the protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks in the work plan. The attached table will be used to fill out the database when it is ready, as it is still under construction at the Commission.

As we created the table, it became evident that many of the original benchmarks were not framed as measurable standards, and many didn’t have corresponding metrics. So the attached table includes many edits to the original benchmarks and/or metrics, as well as a few of the goals. All suggested edits are in red. The work group must approve the edits before we can submit the report. Once this table is complete and accomplishments are fully recorded, the work group will review it again and approve the content. In the interest of time, please review the edits ahead of time and be prepared to accept the changes and/or provide additional edits at the meeting.

**3) 9:30 – 9:50**:   Proposal by Vicki Heater for changes to the monitoring section.

**4)  9:50 – 10:00**:  Final draft of Ag Viability Survey being conducted by Kent Miller, WSU.

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Meeting Notes:

1. 5-Year Report Update
2. Template is due out soon and will be focused primarily on data reporting of activities, not so much on the Agriculture Viability Survey and other work. Will not be narrative form as expected, but a narrative should be provided to the workgroup in addition to the database information. (Note: template was sent out later that day). Bill Eller provided the process document outlining the report flow.
3. Revisions to the budget were discussed and briefly discussed monitoring changes to the monitoring section (more detail later in meeting).
4. Input Table for 5-year Report (Cathi Winings)
5. Cathi has been working on the monitoring table within the Plan and noted that there are inconsistencies in the terminology of benchmarks, metrics and thresholds. Made document confusing as to what really was attempting to be measured and whether it was quality/measurables, quality/observed measurements, non-scientific verses scientific, etc. She highlighted several sections within the document to make the language more understandable and consistent. Discussion supported more observable conditions rather than measured but need to be clear as to what exactly is being measured (i.e. wetland habitat enhancement verses protection). Cathi will continue to work out details and send out to group for review.
6. Decided to pursue new benchmarks for next 5 years.
7. 5% threshold for wetlands were not realistic per feedback Cathi received.
8. Language clarity changes suggested for Geohazards and CARA categories.
9. How measurable are the Benchmarks/Metrics in CARA actually?
10. Proposed changes to the Water Quality monitoring in VSP by Vicki Heater.
11. Make system more participatory and observable, rather than strict data analysis.
12. Can use county stormwater data to supplement.
13. Current system is too logistically difficult and expensive per CD staff (sample transport from islands to ferry, airport, or delivered to mainland).
14. Levi Keesecker mentioned other CD’s using volunteers or high school students as opportunity for community involvement.
15. Vicki will flush out proposal more for group to review.
16. Ag Viability Survey
17. Kent Miller with WSU is working on revisions of questions from last survey.
18. Discussion among group to reword several questions and get back to Kent asap.

Meetings will be scheduled for November and December to provide progress updates and reporting to workgroup.