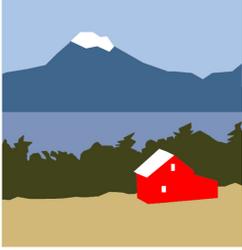


SAN JUAN ISLANDS



CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**San Juan Islands Conservation District**  
530 Guard Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
[www.sanjuanislandscd.org](http://www.sanjuanislandscd.org)  
360-378-6621

**San Juan County Voluntary Stewardship Program  
Work Group Meeting  
Minutes**

Tuesday, March 15 2021, 10:30-12 p.m.

Zoom Attendance

**NEXT MEETING June 8, 2022**

**Attendees:** Paul Andersson (SJICD), Charlie Behnke (SJCLB), Brook Brouwer (WSU-Ext), Bruce Gregory (SJICD), Marcus Reeves (WDFW), Ron Schultz (WSCC), Angie Shephard (SJICD), Kendra Smith (SJC), David Williams (SJC), Cathi Winings (SJICD)

**Minutes**

The Work Group welcomes our newest member, Angie Shephard, from the San Juan Islands Conservation District. She has returned to the district as a farm planner and to support VSP.

**Work Group membership**

We still need a representative from the environmental community. Please make recommendations by April 1. Paul confirmed the list of current members that were approved by SJC Council in December.

**VSP Work Group - 2021 Membership - Appointed by SJC Council on 12/15/21**

**Name & Affiliation**

Angie Freeman Shephard, SJI Conservation District  
Brook Brouwer, WSU Extension  
Byron Rot, San Juan County Environmental Resources  
David Williams, San Juan County Planning Department  
Cathi Winings, SJI Conservation District  
Charlie Behnke, SJC Land Bank  
Faith Van De Putte, Midnights Farm  
Kathy Morris, West Beach Farm  
Kendra Smith, San Juan County Environmental Resources  
Matt Claussen, SJI Conservation District  
Paul Andersson, SJI Conservation District  
Vicki Heater, SJI Conservation District Board

## **Adaptive Management Plan Updates**

### **Implementation:**

- ISP writing continues with about 1 ISP per month; we are set to reach participation goals as outlined in AMP of 8 ISPs per year.
- GIS analysis underway to develop datasets necessary for planning and outreach. An example map of farms with farm plans was displayed; this map seems to be missing farms. Need to double check layers used with the county. We are also mapping priority watersheds and critical areas where they intersect with mapped farms, and developing lists of farms in priority areas for targeted outreach.

### **Outreach:**

- The outreach ad printed in local newspapers to promote VSP was displayed, and was included in attachments.
- The outreach letter is finalized with edits from Work Group, and the BMP survey to collect baseline data is in draft form. We are exploring different platforms to host the survey (MS Forms, Mapseed, StoryMaps). The draft Storymap that contains the text from the outreach letter and link to BMP survey was presented as one potential platform to move forward with. Once the survey is complete, the Work Group will be able to review and comment on the draft version.

### **Monitoring:**

- Field monitoring continues as each ISP is written; SVAP to be conducted this spring.
- Working with FHL on water quality data for False Bay Creek. Wendell Raymond will be making their data publicly available.
- SJICD provided comments on a draft Watershed Monitoring Guide (vol 1-2 of 4) produced by WSCC. Our comments were based on the fact that most of our data is qualitative in nature, and making sure that it is of sufficient quality for the next 5-year report. We are going to be getting some more assistance from SCC staff to work out more details of our monitoring plan and sampling designs.

## **SJC VSP Webpage**

The webpage language about VSP for the county's web page was discussed. The language on the bottom of page 2 needs to be clarified for structures in critical areas. Proposed changes (in yellow), from Brook:

Anything not included in the above definition is subject to regulation under the county CAO and any other applicable regulation (e.g., developmental regulations, environmental regulations, etc.). **Table 18.35.100-4 further defines the county's wetland and wetland buffer protections. Agriculture activities except for structures are allowed in both the wetland and the buffer. Ag structures are subject to the same provisions as other structures.**

**Please note: San Juan County has exempted agricultural structures from VSP and agricultural structures are subject to the same provisions as other structures, including appropriate setbacks from FWHCA and Wetlands (see San Juan County Code [Table 18.35.100-4](#) and [Table 18.35.130-3](#)).**

County code revision will occur next year and will include addressing VSP and other programs. In the meantime, the website language changes should clarify and align text and tables indicating that ag structures are not permitted within critical areas. The county is fine with posting the web language at this time.

## **Priority watersheds**

- Priority watersheds in the Work Plan differ from those identified in the 8-Basin Report/Salmon Recovery Plan. Maps and a table were provided to show differences.

- As a solution, the CD can layer the Eight Basin Report onto the priority watersheds to refine the target and bullseye areas for planning. There should be special emphasis on areas with culverts, in-stream ag ponds, and fish passage potential especially lower in the watershed.
- The CD should keep the county apprised if there is fish passage on a property.
- The CD can use the county's Conservation Lands layer to to identify areas where the county focuses, and work on focusing on areas outside of these where there are gaps.
- WDFW recommends that we focus on areas with fish-bearing streams, then we can look at these with a finer scale to strengthen the Work Plan/AMP.

### Cara Groundwater Resource Goals/Climate change Work Plan Goals

- Discussed the aquifer recharges and groundwater study. Cachements, cisterns,(capacity concerns) direct inject, ponds (HAB concerns) etc. need to be prioritized.
- Farmers are encouraged to get a water right on their ponds and improve irrigation efficiency. (5,000 gallon a day limit on private well water usage).
- Ponds represent a good storage strategy, but are hampered by permits required for moving earth, permit for dam higher than 10', tree clearing DNR permits, ECY permits, water rights.
- Proposed that CD could consolidate forms and hyperlinks to agencies to provide resources for permitting and to point to best practices. Get an update from Vicki.
- More conversations with ECY about where they can help streamline process to capture winter rainfall for water use.
- Continue discussions with ECY on Zylstra Lake water right. Buck Smith, John Rose, Michelle Curtis ECY contacts. They are prioritizing San Juan and working with folks on water permits.
- Discussed Lopez Watershed climate change impacts modeling and the need to deploy cachment strategies more strategically

### Other updates

SJICD presented at the Joint VSP Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee meeting on March 10. The goal of the meeting was to ask questions relating to the next five-year reporting process. Largely about monitoring; they will help us with working out the details of the monitoring plan.

### Actions items

- **Work Group membership** –Submit recommendations by April 1.
- **SJC webpage** – Edit language to address structures (CD-DONE), then post webpage language: **Dave**.
- **Conservation Lands Layer**- CD will use this layerto help focus target areas where gaps exist.
- **Farm map updated**- Cathi will confirm that the farm layer is correct and update accordingly
- **Groundwater Study**-Kendra will follow up with Kyle to identify data gaps and recharge estimates. Cathi will get an update from Vicki
- If you haven't yet, please watch the attorney general's [open public meetings act training](https://www.atg.wa.gov/lesson-3-open-public-meetings-act-rcw-4230).  
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