**Session Notes**

**Washington State Technical Advisory Committee**

**April 21, 2022 9:30a-2:15pm – In person/virtual**

**Attendees:57**

Roylene Comes at Night Damon Roberts Catherine Cannon

Nick Vira Robert Evans Kevin

Larry Cochran Keith Griswold Toby Rogers

Robert Compton Deborah Johnson Eric Easton

Ryan Tippett Austin Shero Carrie Spardlin

Dan Dormaier Carlee Elliott Ruby Salakory

Matt Harris Kristina Riebella Stephanie Fisher

Kristina Ribellis Nathan Gallahan Chris Bornsignore

Glen Maxim Nicholas Peak Jan Thomas

Cameron Stoflet Ron Cummings Rodney Heit

Laura Williams Ron Shultz Erin Kacmarczyk

Mark Moore Lori Gonzalez Bill Eller

Sturat Crane Angela Reseland Lacey Menasco

Lee Hemmer Fred Morscheck Amy Hendershot

Robin Slate Alison Halpern Jon Wyss

Mike Baden Helen Price Johnson Ben Thiel

Aubrey Hoxie Allan Warren Tiffany Verdusco

Dan Calvert Micheal Crowder Anna Lael

Nicholas George Sarah Evans Peters Chris Pettitt

Rachel Maggi David Rose

**Opening Remarks – Roylene Comes at Night**

* Welcome’s everyone back for first in-person STAC meeting in over 2.5 years.
* Justice & Equity- Targeting outreach
* Complete obligations early- don’t be a 4th quarter team
* New opportunity for partnerships
* Continuous software updates
* Hired about 20 new employees
* Discussion of Farm Bill (what could work for NRCS)
* Watershed program funded 1.9 billion (Larry prgm manager)
* We need to hear from local work groups.
* Payment schedule on track to add 40+ practice scenarios

**Introduction and Housekeeping – Nick Vira, NRCS State Partnership Liaison**

**NRCS Easement Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidelines (WRCG)– Keith Griswold**

* NRCS are required to complete WRCG by policy
* 440 conservation programs 528 ACEP manual
* Living documents-Review every Farm Bill (2024 new farm bill)
* Submitted to OR & Idaho huge WREP programs

**Irrigation Conservation Practice Payment Rule – Anna Lael**

* Concern- water concerns- sprinklers inefficient water use
* Conversion of sprinklers big water project/ NRCS EQIP mainly funded.
* Payment reduced 75%-50%
* Concerns- large increase in project cost
* Looking inside and outside of region
* Problem to be addressed “more demand then $”

 **Urban Conservation update**

* Amy is on a temp work assignment
* Adopt intern practice-Washington will be looking about May/June to adopt into program plan
* 808 changed to 336 soil carbon amendment
* Before a scenario is offered it has to be offered to conjoining state.
* Rachel Maggi’s questions to STAC
	+ Where should we take the program for next FY?
	+ Which ones we want to adopt in WA (specific reasons)?
	+ Where should we target the funding?
	+ What resources concerns should we target?
	+ What practices should be priority?
	+ What other organizations would you like us to speak too?
	+ What gets you excited.

**Farm Service Agency Update- Jon Wyss**

* Emergency loan declaration ready by end of week
* State committee interview for Program Chief
* Food & ag counsel met on quarterly bases

**Washington Conservation Commission update – Chris Pettit**

* WCSS new Executive Director

**NRCS State Resource Conservationist – Bobby Evans**

* Bobby gave an introduction of himself.

**Rural Development Update – Helen Price-Johnson**

* Director
* PP presentation
* Mission to increase economic opportunity and improve quality of live for all Rural Americans.
* Focusing on equity and access to rural development programs
* Targeted outreach programs
* 60 programs available

**Risk Management agency- Ben Thiel**

* Help ag producers manage productions and revenue risk
* Crop insurance
* Covers livestock as well
* Regional office for Alaska/OR/WA
* 300 employees nationwide

**Welcome Angela Reseland of WDFW – Angela Reseland**

* Next meeting with be in June
* On agenda for Next wildlife sub-committee meeting Rocky Mt Elk foundation grants, big game migration, Non-lethal predator management (grizzle bears& wolves) and expiring CRPS.

**Soil health subcommittee update – Toby Rogers/Alison Halpern**

* 808 standard practices coming out this year
* 808 will become a conservational standard practice 336
* Bio char - adding carbon to the soil

**Alison**

* Soil heath committee 2.0
* Pilot project about soil health
* Soil health advisory committee
* Stainable harm Farms and fields got 2 million dollars funded for FY 23

**Closing**

* Roylene thanks everyone for coming/feedback welcomed to help with upcoming FY programs