Minutes

Washington State Technical Advisory Committee

Date | time 04/20/2023 09:30 AM Virtual| Meeting called to order by Nick Vira

# In Attendance - 26

Mike Baden, Bill Blake, Dan Calvert, Roylene Comes at Night, Robert Compton, Stuart Crane, Michael Crowder, Ron Cummings, Erin Eaton, Robert Evans, Laura Farwell, Keith Griswold, Lee Hemmer, Matt Harris, Anna Lael, Eun Lee, Thomas Obrien, Nicolas Peak, Angela Reseland, Austin Shero, Robin Slate, Cameron Stoflet, Nick Vira, Allan Warren, Emmett Wild, Sean Williams

# ANNOUNCEMENT

**Introduction & Housekeeping by** **Nick Vira, State Partnership Liaison**

**Opening Remarks – Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS – WA State Conservationist**

Welcome’s everyone. Input, feedback needed for adjustment FY24 from this group.

Today’s meeting goal: Updates & Wrapping up for FY23 and moving to FY24, Overview of next few years.

Shared State IRA TA Projection. Increasing yearly and Huge Funding in FY25, FY26.

Doubling staffing plan: Doubling current 147 staff. Building staffing strategy for solving staffing issue. Identified 50 out of 100 new positions through the partners with agreements/contracts.

Please help us to word out for doubling applications by next year, targeting audience/places to outreach ideas to us.

IRA flexibility allows short term contract for only one or two for inflation. Separate IRA & Farm bill available, contact us for any questions. Open to work with Local Work Groups for IRA funding opportunities

**Keith Griswold, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs**

General Updates: Received IRA EQIP $2.2 M & 58 Applications and IRA CSP $5.4 M fund & 9 Applications. Obligation Deadline is June 30th. Any of previous application such as CSP Classic or Farm Bill CSP could be qualified for IRA CSP as well.

FY23 RCPP proposals announcement coming soon. Existing RCPP EQIP and RCPP CSP projects available. 2 RCPP ACEP Easement projects open and currently taking applications. ACEP Program: $2.6M, 3 applications.

EQIP Classic: $26.3M 814 applications 49 contracts 3 million, Obligation deadline Sep 15. EQIP CIC: 32 applications $850K. CSP Classic: $12 Million, 186 applications. CSP National Obligation deadline Sep15.

[CSP Zone Changes](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-04%2F230407_WA_STAC_PresentationforProposedFY24CSPfundpools.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) : FY24 Proposed CSP Zones. Supported by all.

[Grasslands of Special Significance (GSS)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-04%2F230413_WA_Easement_Program_update_for_GSS.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) : Current area of GSS in WA

[Watersmart in WA](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-04%2F230407_WA_Watersmart_for%2520STAC.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) Overview and updates. Contact local District Conservationist if interested

**Bobby Evans, NRCS State Resource Conservationist for Programs**

Conservation Practice 327: [Combustion System Improvement for IRA](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-04%2F230407_WA_CombustionSystemImprovement%2528372%2529-for-IRA%2528STAC%2529.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK). No concerns reported

[Top Ten Practice for EQIP (90% Payment ) List](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-04%2F230407_WA_EQIP_High_Priority_Practices_%2528Top%252010%2520STAC%2529.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) Removed from Top 10 Priority Practices still receive 75% Payment, not meaning removed from the practice to be qualified.

**Nick Vira, State Partnership Liaison**

Conservation Practices – Any Conservation Practices needed to add, let us know.

Local Work Group – Over half of LWG had meeting or set up. All LWG meeting done by June 30th.

Encouraging IRA Project Proposals for LWG. LWGs propose amount of funds for the project.

# Input / Comment / Disc

Suggestions for conservation practices lists need to support by data and science.

Limiting One application for one tribe per year? – One application for multiple funds works better in the software. Multiple applications in one contract in the system causing issue to terminate applications.

Tribe has concern about conflict interest for applying programs in different agencies. Tribal Liaison can assist.

# ACTION NEEDED

Hearing from you! Input, feedback is critical for NRCS’s operation and the changes/ adjustment for FY24. Please help us to word out for doubling applications by next year, targeting audience/places to outreach ideas to us. Any input /feedback/comment to Nick Vira.

NRCS looking for Geospatial data to evaluate prairie habitat in WA for easement program, Data Collection by another week for FY24.

LWG for IRA funding proposals questions, discussion, please contact Nick Vira or Keith Griswold.

Deadline for Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production April 27th.

Deadline for Outreach to Underserved communities April 27th. Contact Nick Vira for questions.

# Next Meeting

Date | time, Location

: Next STAC will be August 3rd. Plan for in person meeting.