**Session Notes**

**State Technical Advisory Committee**

**August 18, 2022, 9:30a-12:30p - Teleconference**

**Attendees:**

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| Anna (guest) |
| Allan Warren |
| Angela Reseland |
| Annie Dhaenens |
| Aubrey Hoxie |
| Austin Shero |
| Brandy Reed |
| Cameron Gene Stoflet |
| Catherine Cannon |
| Danielle Gelardi |
| Daryl Williams |
| David Rose |
| Gary Bahr |
| Georgia Sormun |
| Harold (guest) |
| Ike Martinez |
| Jarry Johnson |
| Jeromy Sullivan |
| Jon Wyss |
| Keith Griswold |
| Lacey Menasco |
| Linda Lyshall |
| Matt Harris |
| Michael Crowder |
| Mike Baden |
| Nathan Gallahan |
| Nick Vira |
| Nikki Guillot |
| Rachel Mazzacavallo |
| Robert Burken |
| Robert Compton |
| Robert Evans |
| Robin Slate |
| Roylene Comes at Night |
| Stephanie Fisher |
| Stuart Crane |
| Tom Wooten |

**Opening Remarks:**

**Roylene Comes At Night, NRCS WA State Conservationist**

* Welcomes everyone. Discusses the current state of EQIP and CSP
* Discusses contracting of ACEP and RCPP
* Talked about contracting for the next fiscal year
* Talked about Public Affairs Outreach and focusing their efforts
* Wants to get the word out about completing applications
* Where are we going in 2023?
* Opportunity: Inflation Reduction Act and how it effects FY ‘23 and ‘24
* Easement team is ready to go, Watershed Team is in process, CNMP team is in the planning stage, Urban team is about to begin being built
* Irrigation and payment changes practices 441 and 442

**Source Water Protection Priority Areas (SWPA)**

**Action: review recommendations for priority area selection**

**Nick Vira, Partnership Liaison, & SWPA Partners, Dept of Health/Ecology/EPA**

* Showed the Background of SWPA offer objectives
* Consideration Factors
* Participation Factors
* Options within the proposed protection areas
* Feedback and questions
	+ Begins FY23
	+ Applicants will get more points if they are inside the SWPA
	+ Applicants inside SWPA get higher payment rate
	+ Requested a list of Practices applicable to SWPA

**Local Work Group Update:**

**Nick Vira, Partnership Liaison**

* Local work group Fund pool summary
* Discuss process and Responses
* Top 10 Resource Concerns and their categories
* Possibly abandoning survey for the future/ not as useful at this point in pandemic
	+ Got a thumbs up

Action Item: if anybody has need send comments on LWG to Nick Vira

**Farmers.gov Website Update**

**Nick Vira, Liaison**

* Overview of the website

**Break 1030 to 1045**

**Programs Update:**

**To discuss and provide recommendations on the state’s priority resource concerns.**

**Keith Griswold, NRCS Assist. State Conservationist for Programs**

* Proposed WRE team will be announced in October (projected timeline)
* EQIP, CSP Classic, and EQIP CIC opened today with a deadline of October 13
* State Ranking Criteria Changes
	+ Proposed changes to EQIP statewide question in CART ranking tools
	+ Proposed FY23 and forward statewide questions
	+ Question: how many “new” or “socially disadvantaged” applicants are expected for FY23? Answer, historically we see about 170 out of 700 applicants to qualify as “new” or “socially disadvantaged”
* Top Ten Priority Practices (high priority practices) 90% payment rate
	+ Discuss previous practice list (396,645,391,666,612,313,386,340,329,420)
	+ Proposed (396,645,391,666,612,313,528,340,329,420)
	+ Justifications for change. We want higher adoption rate/ congress says we only get 10 things to prioritize
* GARC (Geographic area rate cap) Discussion for WRE Applicants
	+ $5,000 per acre max unless there are T&E species present
	+ Then a cap of $10,000 is available
	+ Email Keith or Nick with comments before October, 25
* Easement Update
	+ First announcement for easements in October
	+ ALE easement announcement in November

**Adjourn**

**The next STAC meeting is planned for Winter 2022/2023.**