

All-Staff Meeting, May 1, 2024 Notes

Admin:

- Personnel: getting interviews scheduled for [community wildfire resiliency manager](#) and [riparian grants program manager](#).
- Supervisor appointment interviews underway.
- Alicia working on inventory sheets and sending to you to review. Please make sure all your items are listed.
- Meeting memos are due to Kaisha by Friday, May 3.
- VSP hiring still going to happen and will move forward.
- Alicia and Kaisha have been super busy ordering year-end stuff. Replacing old equipment and monitors. If folks have additional IT needs, please reach out to Alicia by the end of the week or it may not be able to happen by the end of the fiscal year.
- Send Alicia an email if you want a screen extender, especially good for those on the road.

Finance:

- Please check your TEMS mileage to make sure it has calculated distance correctly. We had an instance where it calculated only half of the distance.
- Reminders for RMs: Year-end funding request forms are due by Friday. Please remind your CD if they have yet to turn in their year-end request.
- Going to take down the returned funds form from May 1 forward. Too late to roll forward operating requests.
- Two contracts getting signed this week! Website maintenance and a Science Hub contract. Thanks to Karla for helping to expedite.

Communications:

- Have any website updates? Please share. Bigger structural, layout, intranet – things that you really want to see there:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/3edd9071ea7540a098fe960e0aed90fc>
- Helpful tips to managing your inbox:
[Managing Your Inbox: Eliminating Time Waste – April 2024](#)
- Working on Conservation Month numbers and after-action report.
- Working on an SOP for letters of support with Karla.
- Working on strategic plan updates.
- Request for social media things to share. Send Toyo any articles, stories from CDs, etc.
- NACD stewardship week, big education push out to CDs. “May the forest be with you.” Great materials on the NACD website.
- Outreach booth at state FFA conference in Pullman. Oregon NRCS soil trailer will be there.
- State Envirothon happening in Walla Walla on Friday after commission meeting.
- Jodi will be adding some contracts for Riparian Outreach. Thanks Alec!
- Working with KR Creative on some great outreach tools.

IT, Thomas:

- Replacing BINQ monitors in the office in the next week or two.

- Data assessment is in full swing. Reaching out to you all as we continue on. Mapping underway of current state, will be reaching out about that. Looks abstract, but paints a picture of opportunity.
- New IT hire starts June 1!

Policy:

- Ecology grant with EPA looking at creative ways to do riparian management, also in partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Kate and Brian navigating what we can we deliver on relative to what we had proposed a year ago. Possibly contract with Snohomish CD.
- Riparian roundtable is continuing – that group is working on developing a set of recommendations for the Legislature on a statewide approach to riparian management.
- Lots of CREP questions coming in.
- Results WA has an organizational change conference: <https://results.wa.gov/improving-government/lean/2024-washington-state-organizational-change-management-conference>
- Lots of tribal notifications coming in for Riparian Grant Program (RGP) applications.

OFP:

- New FPLA project. Workgroup met and it will be moving forward!
- Kate heading to WA DC during Commission meeting. Josh will help with FPLA presentation.
- Home stretch of submitting RCO applications for 5 CDs. Rounding the corner on this current round of applications.
- Paul will start to do monitoring of existing easements around state.

Science Hub:

- In process of getting contracts done. Thank you Karla, Alec, Nicole, Sarah G. and Courtney for helping!
- Ecosystem services contract to think about the economics of riparian zones.
- CRM overview on May 22 online via CTD. Open to all of us. Intersects with many programs that the commission runs.
- Working on statements of work to help with GIS analysis, watershed prioritizations, regenerative ag, etc.
- Having conversations about what pilot watershed could look like, connecting partners, advancing strategic goals in a strategic manner.

District Ops:

- Paige and Jean working on the Community Engagement Plan (CEP). Please reach out to Jean if you want more detail and history. One requirement for funding under CCA is the CEP. We have one that is provisional, approved by Commission in September to work with CDs to better fit agency work. Just had first meeting with CD folks who volunteered to participate in a final draft. East and westside diversity and small and large CDs. Goal is to have a draft that is good enough to send to CDs for Dec. Commission meeting. Provisional version is based on the template from the Environmental Justice Council. Staff welcome to volunteer to review and draft as well.

- Thanks to Alicia for wrangling interviews for Supervisor appointments.
- Tapped on shellfish funds.
- Josh started participating in group that our agency is part of called Integrated Pest Management group.
- Working on updating regional manager coverage areas. Will probably finalize in June.
- Josh out until next Thurs, please contact Allisa.

VSP:

- Newsletter coming out Friday. Send Sarah W. any program updates you wish to share.
- Ag viability and farmland preservation coming up more and more as a root problem.
- Great April 9 meeting re Monitoring Plans in Ellensburg. Will be posted online.

Elections:

- Bill has done great work in elections investigation.

CREP:

- Rest of the state audit is underway. Unable to see spreadsheet, asked Jon again.
- Working on a next possible iteration.
- Whatcom is now final. We can start figuring out who is left standing and how best to support those folks. Could do a next year of rental payments possibly.
- Working with Kate on the Ecology grant.

SFF:

- Climate-Smart Livestock grants!
 - o Reopening Research and Demonstration application after last round. Moving forward with 4 applications from this past round. \$1.2 M left to use by end of the biennium.
 - o Meeting to review applications for Alt. Manure Management. Working on how to direct CDs for reporting, as it's CCA funding and pre-application notification pieces, then will be ready to send out award notices.
 - o Working with Whatcom CD to help with Alt. Manure Management and Anaerobic Digestors.
 - o Working to find some capacity on Climate Smart and Organic Ag Study.

IEGP/Water resources:

- Jon's nephew, Devin Culp, has been drafted to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!!
- Working with Ecology for drought applications. If CDs apply directly to ECY, could have an award in 3 weeks. If go through our interagency agreement with us and ECY, could take 8 weeks.
- DES agreed to allow us to do a competency hiring process for water resources position. Huge shoutout to Lori for getting that set up.
- How to share more about IEGP and other program offerings to VSP and others.

DEIB:

- Jon working on May Commission meeting DEIB update.