

## Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

3/9/2020 at 10:00am

Via WebEx

Attendees: Katie Buckley, Erin Morse, Richard Sakuma, Taylor Cotten, Alex Harwell, Colleen Miko, Alison Halpern, Eric Lee-Mader, Paul Hosticka

We decided to start at the top and go down through everything.

1.1 We decided not to combine 1.1 and 1.2 due to the very different focus (rural vs. turf conversion). We agreed to keep them separate. A question was raised about funding competition on the county level. Answer was that it changes year to year, and place to place. In some there might be lots of competition, and in others they are giving the money away to whoever asks.

A change in language was applied after we noted the difficulty in finding late blooming plants in eastern Washington. (There are a few species that do, and most are not easy to find commercially.) Katie will get a hold of WSDA Organics and ask about other state certifications.

1.2 Discussion ensued about who would administer the grant program. After debating combining them with WSDA and Noxious Weeds, it was decided that the Conservation Commission was probably best set up to administer it. Other agencies would be more than welcome to help advertise the program and provide assistance.

1.3 We are pretty happy with this one.

1.4 Eric will delete this one after he's pulled out the good bits.

1.5 Katie will run this one by the DOE. We wanted to know if this would change requirements on how irrigation ditches are maintained. Also, what does constitute a riparian zone in regards to irrigation canals?

1.6 Katie will add rangeland experts' comments when she gets them, and send out an update when that happens. She will also see if Tipton Hudson with WSU is willing to look it over too.

1.7 We are all happy with the changes. It was brought up that a similar project did not get funding.

1.8 Recommendation was deleted. Colleen will go through all recommendations and add wording to effect of 'native plants are best, but non-native, non-invasive, high quality plants are a good alternate.' There was a bill about replacing large swathes of land treated for noxious weeds with pollinator friendly plants, but it wasn't funded. We made another recommendation to suggest funding that bill (which did pass.)

1.9 Katie will find someone, anyone, to let us know if this is actually a thing that DNR does. If not, it gets deleted.

1.10 Taylor has edited this one to be very DFW. We all like it, and he got a sticker of approval.

1.11 Explanation: Criteria for the tax is set at state level. Rates are set at the county level.

1.12 Eric will rewrite this to reflect the bill's passage. Alison will help rewrite.

Task force meeting next week: WebEx for everyone is recommended with current coronavirus conditions. Meeting minutes will be sent out by Katie by the 11<sup>th</sup> (I'm early!)