

Detailed Lean Improvement Project Report

For the June 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, reporting period

Agency name: State Conservation Commission

Improvement project title:

Results Washington – Goal 3: Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment
Healthy Fish and Wildlife – Shellfish 2.1.b: Increase number of implemented agricultural BMPs to improve water quality in shellfish growing areas in Puget Sound, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties.

Date improvement project initiated: 07/01/13 the beginning of the 2013-15 biennium.

Summary: The process for funding landowner activities to protect water quality for shellfish growing areas has been changed to be more focused and targeted to improve monitoring for natural resource results. The goal is to increase the number of implemented agricultural BMPs to improve water quality in shellfish growing areas in Puget Sound, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties from 345 in 2008 to 750 by 2016.

Details:

Description of the problem: Numerous shellfish growing areas have been closed in recent years due to water quality declining in Puget Sound, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. One source of water inputs is agricultural activities.

Description of the improvement: The State Conservation Commission has traditionally funded landowner projects protecting water quality in a ranked and prioritized list. This resulted in funded projects being scattered throughout a watershed. As part of the Results WA/Lean process improvement, the SCC has revised funding allocations to be more targeted to the resource concern by clustering funded projects in a sub-basin. This clustering approach will allow funding to be more effective by improving the ability to monitor the resource concern to determine if measureable improvements are being made. We can then apply adaptive management principles to adjust program implementation if results are not being achieved. By implementing this new approach over 525 BMPs were implemented, putting us over half way to our goal.

Specific results achieved: This concentration of projects will have a greater long-term impact for natural resource improvement, while also moving towards Governor Inslee's goal of implementing agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) of 750 by 2016. By focusing project funding and project installation in a targeted area, limited financial resources can be implemented more effectively with measured results based on resource monitoring

How we involved customers or stakeholders in this effort: Conservation districts, the largest recipient of the funding, was involved from the beginning in the creation of this new targeted funding approach. Districts are also required to engage with local stakeholders and existing local processes addressing shellfish resources before submitting a project



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proposal for funding. This results in projects that support multiple local and state objectives. At the state level, the SCC coordinates with other natural resource agencies evaluating the results of program implementation to determine whether the program is meeting state interests and priorities.

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