



OKANOGAN COUNTY
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A regular meeting of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on April 8th, 2021 at 6:00
2 p.m. via web: Microsoft Teams Meeting and phone conference.

3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Director of Planning Pete Palmer, Natural Resource Planner
4 Angie Hubbard and Morgan Allen Administrative Secretary

5 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Bill Tackman, Jerry Barnes, and Maurice Joy,
6 Dick Ewing, George Thornton.

7 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin

8

9 **Approve Agenda:** Les moved to approved to minutes with Maurice seconded to approve the
10 meeting, all in favor

11

12 **Approve Minutes:** Les moves to approve the minutes Maurice seconded, all in favor.

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14 **program Update**

15 1. Amy presents the program updates to the group. Explaining how Okanogan County and
16 the conservation district are developing a contract amendment that will move the money
17 form the county to the conservation district. Amy explains how they planning to get
18 grants for irrigation programs and jack straw timber barrier projects to help protect
19 wetlands and creeks. Dick asked if the jack straw timber projects were a part of the
20 planned addendum for WIRA 49. Amy said she believes they have a generic place
21 holder for livestock related projects, however she cannot remember if that one is listed.
22 When they learn how the county will track the WIRA projects they will be submitting
23 them to count towards ecological benefits. The current biennium ends June 30th they are
24 on track to spend out funds. By June the group will have spent \$12,000 in cost share.
25 They hope to do more projects since they weren't able to do as much last year because
26 of covid, etc. The state is still working on the budget for the next biennium there is
27 around \$24,000 per county. Technical panels have been discussing policy advisory
28 related to new agriculture activities and how that fits into VSP verses other ordnances.
29 Amy and Craig are working on program improvements hoping to participate more often.
30 Amy presents perspective programs for the house budget and WSDA grant. Amy
31 complements Craig on the work he has been doing. Amy went over range planning and
32 how they are looking into getting a range planner. Amy asked if there were any
33 questions and the group had none. Amy talks about schkrohowsky riparian and what
34 they are planning to do in the aspen wetland. Amy shares with the group the planting
35 projects for schkrohowsky planting.

36

37 **Review 5-Year Report comments**

- 38 2. Amy shares with the group how they are going to have a public meeting May 13th. She
39 explains how the public meeting will run. She talks about the comments that have come
40 in. She reviews the comments with the group. Dick asked if the form were cumbersome
41 to complete? Dick asked what issues she was having with the template. She thinks that
42 templet used was not sufficient for them. Dick asked if there was any feedback from
43 personal about how they are doing. Then asked about the monitoring of the implemented
44 projects sampling. Amy and Lynda talked about linking upland monitoring with shark tailed
45 grouse habitat. Dick asked if there will be any visual monitoring to be able to identify a site
46 with a before and after view. Amy explains how the new the monitoring protocol works
47 saying they need better monitor strategies. Lynda speaks about where Fish and Wildlife
48 would like the conservation to monitor stating that if they monitor the Fish and Wildlife land
49 it will go a long way with them. Levi states yes, it's true that many counties are using the
50 mapping does not think that its HRCDC is the default. Stating that it seems clear that more
51 agencies want more than just mapping and there can be issues that arise with it. He
52 speaks about on the ground monitoring and the benefits from it. Amy hopes they can
53 connect with the technical panel and WDFW. Amy and Levi discuss what they can do for
54 the technical panel and WDFW for what other state agencies agree with. They talked
55 about what the agencies want to see. Dick speaks about the comments. Amy talks about
56 how other counties prepare respond to the comments. She shares that the VSP response
57 is not ready and thinks it's a good idea to help characterize some of the issues on the
58 reservation. She believes that the adaptive management plan addresses a lot of the
59 comments that were received.

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61 **May 13th is the public meeting**

62 **Adaptive Management Action items**

- 63 3. Dick asked how much of the reservation they were reasonable for monitoring and how
64 much help the tribes would be helping. Amy responded with her and Angie idea of
65 excluding reservation land form VSP programs. Amy asked Maurice about what his
66 opinion was about excluding the reservation land from VSP. He believes that there is a lot
67 of confusion about what reservations are and the powers are there. He has not had a lot
68 of experience with the Colville Reservation but has worked with the Bureau of Indian
69 Affairs. Bill asked Amy what her extent of communication has been with the Colville's. He
70 suggested there should be communication about what the next step in the plans will be.
71 Amy agreed with Bill and states how herself, Angie and Pete will meet with them to go
72 over the next steps. Amy went over with the group about how they are considering forest
73 health activities as a metric for their program. Amy present to the group a map of projects
74 that were being implemented. She then went over how she plans to update and clarify the
75 Work Plan. Bill asked about a development in the Lower Methow Valley that is being taken
76 out of agriculture land and turned into a subdivision and asked how does it show up on
77 their baseline data. Amy states ag viability issues is something she needs to characterize
78 and something that she wants to have prepared for their public meeting. Bill believes it
79 would be nice to be able to collate the data so they can see the progression of how quickly
80 or not the ag land is disappearing. Amy gave an overview of the adaptive management
81 tasks and told the group about how they applied for a water quality monitoring grant but
82 was unsuccessful. Amy went over state programmatic recommendations and how they
83 plan to implement them. Amy asked the group if there was any other questions or
84 comments. There was none and they planned the next meeting July, 8th 2021 at 6pm.
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88 Bill moved to adjourn the meeting

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93 **Next Meeting:** July 8th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

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96 **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

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98 **Summary of Motions**

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100 No motions due to lack of quorum.

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104 Morgan Allen
105 Administrative Secretary
106 Okanogan County Office of Planning & Development