



OKANOGAN COUNTY  
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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## Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A regular session of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on Jul 7, 2016 at 6:30  
2 p.m. in Commissioner's Hearing Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington.

3 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Director Perry Huston, Natural Resources Planner Angela  
4 Hubbard, Planner 1 Pam Wyllson, Administrative Secretary Lauren Davidson

5 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Dan McCarthy, Bill Tackman, Les Kinney,  
6 Nichole Kuchenbuch, Megan Kernan, Jerry Barnes, Dick Ewing, Maurice Joy

7 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Craig Nelson, Kelly McLain, Evan Sheffels, Lynda Hofmann

8 The meeting opened at 6:30pm. There were no opposing comments on the agenda. Minutes  
9 from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were approved by Megan Kernan and seconded by Les Kinney. The  
10 workgroup decided they would wait to elect a chairman until Dick Ewing arrived as he was the  
11 candidate that was viewed as the best fit for the position. The workgroup viewed the Open  
12 Public Meetings Act and then afterwards there was a discussion on if their meetings fit under  
13 the Open Public Meetings Act. The workgroup decided to start the process to elect a chairman.  
14 Jerry Barnes nominated Dick Ewing, Nichole Kuchenbuch seconded that nomination. There  
15 were no workgroup members opposed to Mr. Ewing being chairman. He asked the workgroup  
16 what they wanted his responsibilities to be as the chairman. The group stated that he could run  
17 the meetings and provide information to outside sources regarding the progress of the VSP. Mr.  
18 Ewing brought up the budget overview hand out that was given to the workgroup members.  
19 Director Huston explained the budget overview and that the professional services line was there  
20 in case they decided to hire an outside professional to work on anything for them. Mrs.  
21 Kuchenbuch stated that she didn't think that the overlay that was provided with the map was  
22 necessary, and it was only somewhat helpful. Director Huston explained that the overlay of  
23 critical areas was already mapped out and that they just need to determine where the AG lands  
24 are located on the map, and only the AG in critical areas. Director Huston also explained that  
25 they are not restoring, enhancing, or changing the land just protecting it as it was prior to July  
26 22, 2011. Mr. Tackman voiced his concerns that the workgroup doesn't have much time to  
27 produce a good product. There were some questions regarding USDA maps and if they had  
28 maps of all the Ag activities for the county. Nichole stated that she wants to use the USDA  
29 maps. Mr. Tackman stated that for the next meeting he wants a big map to project on the wall.  
30 Nichole stated she wanted five maps with each critical area. Les Kinney asked for clarification  
31 on if the federal lands are involved in this project also. Director Huston stated that yes they are  
32 also involved. Les Kinney also asked if they should speak up when they see inaccuracies on the  
33 maps. Director Huston answered yes to that question as well. Dick Ewing stated that he wanted  
34 the comp plan maps as well as the maps that have already been requested. There was concern  
35 from the workgroup about how they are able to tell how Ag land was in 2011. Director Huston  
36 explained that we can use old aerial maps and data from 2011. Nichole asked if any forestry  
37 lands are included in this. There was clarification made that the forestry land is only involved if it  
38 is being grazed or being used as a tree farm. Director Huston asked the workgroup what kind of  
39 agency involment they wanted in regards to tribal agencies. He stated that he would do some

40 outreach and see if they wanted to be involved, he also stated that the department of ecology  
41 has special staff specifically to help with the VSP. Nichole stated that if there is any other  
42 agency involvement she would like them to be non-voting members of the workgroup. There  
43 was discussion on alternates and workgroup numbers. Bill Tackman thinks that the workgroup  
44 number is adequate. There was also discussion that Kent Stokes moved out of the county and  
45 is no longer able to represent district 2. For the next meeting the workgroup decided they would  
46 review and evaluate maps, Megan Kernan stated she would also like to discuss meeting  
47 agendas for further meetings and not just do one meeting agenda at a time. The meeting was  
48 closed at 8:20.

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51 Lauren Davidson

52 Administrative Secretary