



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 February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at  
2 6:00 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan,  
3 Washington.

4 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Natural Resource Planner Angie Hubbard and Administrative  
5 Secretary Cortney Ingle

6 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Les Kinney, Maurice Joy, Jerry Barnes, and Bill  
7 Tackman.

8 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin, Alexa Whipple, and Leslie Michel.

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10 **Approve Agenda:** Bill Tackman moves to approve the agenda as written, Jerry Barnes  
11 seconds, agenda approved.

12  
13 **Approve Minutes:** The group agreed to skip the minute approval and to have Cortney email the  
14 last meeting minutes to the group once they are sorted out.

15  
16 **State/Local Program Updates:**

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- 18 • The five-year report will be due December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Staff will improve the stewardship  
19 checklist and request participation from producers. Leslie stated that filling out the five-  
20 year report is pretty close to filing the two-year report and as long as the group is still  
21 working towards meeting their goals the report should be easy to complete. The  
22 integrated pest management was the only shortcoming from the two-year report. The  
23 Conservation Commission is working on an online form to make reporting easier for the  
24 conservation districts.
  - 25 • Amy is going to contact Chuck Goldmark, Casey Smith, Victor Maldonado, and Dick  
26 Lorz to invite their participation in VSP. Then will request appointments by the  
27 Commissioners. She also mentioned moving to a bigger room as the group expands.

28 **Projects:**

- 29
- 30 • AgweatherNet Stations – requested funding for one more - coordinate with WSU  
31 Extension for orchards. WSDA grant application: orchard chipping/mowing, pollinator  
32 habitat, and Salmon Safe certification.
  - 33 • The five NRCS Local Work Group Priorities are: Excess/Insufficient use of irrigation  
34 water, Air quality impacts, Degraded Plant Condition, Degradation- Organic matter  
35 depletion, Inadequate Habitat for fish and wildlife. Jerry Barnes commented that the  
36 inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife bugs him as he feels that there is enough. Les  
37 Kinney would like to know where they are coming from when saying there is inadequate  
38 land for the fish and wildlife. The group asked Amy to share more information on these  
types of work groups. Amy stated that she is going to work on the outreach of these

39 work groups/meetings. Maurice mentioned that it might be beneficial if the meetings  
40 changed venues once in a while. Amy went over the current projects which include: two  
41 wetland protection and stock watering projects funded, planting on the Okanogan River  
42 bank protections project will continue, Jackstraw livestock barriers, and planning two  
43 small-acreage pollinator plantings.

- 44 • Amy explained that the Jackstraw livestock barriers use downed trees to create barriers  
45 to keep livestock out of surface water. This is an option that is being used instead of  
46 having barbed wire fences up around these areas

47 .

#### 48 **Conservation Practices – Beaver mitigations options:**

- 49 • Alexa explained how there are many benefits and strategies for coexisting with beavers  
50 being worked on as well as a few challenges.
- 51 • Some of the benefits include water storage, water quality, they help with holding back  
52 sediment, and can also help repair streams from fires or over grazing.
- 53 • A few of the challenges associated with coexisting with beavers are clogged culverts,  
54 flooded fields, infrastructure, dams in irrigation canals, as well as orchard and landscape  
55 tree damage.
- 56 • Co-existing strategies that Alexa mentioned were culvert protectors, wire fencing around  
57 trees, and pond levelers, Snohomish pond leveler – fish passage, sand paint for tree  
58 protection which seems to work well on all trees except saplings. The cost for the flow  
59 devices (pond levelers and culvert protectors) is around \$1,100 - \$3,500 and for wire  
60 fencing around trees the cost is around \$300 - \$1,000 depending on the scale of trees  
61 that need protected. Amy explained that the funding process would be 75% covered by  
62 the district and 25% covered by land owner contribution or other funding sources.
- 63 • Jerry Barnes moves to have Amy develop the cost share framework for the beaver  
64 projects, Bill Tackman seconds, motions passes.

- 65 • **Discussion and Approvals:**

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#### 67 **Work Group Member Recruitment:**

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71 **Next Meeting:**

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74 **Adjourn:**

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78 **Summary of Motions**

79 Bill Tackman moves to approve the agenda as written, Jerry Barnes seconds, agenda  
80 approved.

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82 Jerry Barnes moves to have Amy develop the cost share framework for the beaver projects, Bill  
83 Tackman seconds, motions passes.

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85

86 Cortney Ingle

87 Admin Secretary

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