



Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A regular meeting of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on February 1st, 2018 at
2 6:30 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan,
3 Washington.

4 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Natural Resource Planner Angie Hubbard, Administrative
5 Secretary Rocky King

6 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Jerry Barnes, Dick Ewing, Les Kinney, Megan
7 Kernan, Nicole Kuchenbuch

8 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin, Craig Nelson, Mindy Widell, Bill Eller
9

10 **Approve Agenda:** Jerry motioned, Nicole seconded
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12 **Approve Minutes:** Les pointed out a typo on page 2 line 43; lightly should say slightly. Nicole
13 motioned to approve as amended, Jerry seconded.
14

15 **Section 5.**

16 **Benchmarks and Goals**

17 Amy explained that they followed Stevens County's lead. She thinks it's a good idea to include
18 ag viability tracking. She gave an overview of section 5 and explained the data. Les asked how
19 we can determine the conditions in 2011. Craig said that you could look at the records kept by
20 the Conservation District and NRCS. Les pointed out that it may be difficult to capture work
21 done by individual farms that have not taken part in the programs. Nicole said that it's not being
22 measured literally; it will show that collectively conservation efforts have been enhanced. Craig
23 pointed out that that's a good reason to report all the good work being done. Bill suggested they
24 create protection and enhancement benchmarks. Enhancements only have to be met if there is
25 funding. Nicole would like to add language about no net loss of ag land.
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28 **5.2.1**

29 Dick suggested saying "protect and/or enhance" instead of "protect and enhance". Nicole said
30 that on page 3, the box needs to say "and/or protect". The group decided to merge the end right
31 box and include the Methow Restoration Plan of the Methow Restoration Council. Jerry said
32 that they have been working on protecting managed grazing and is now being forced to go in
33 the opposite direction by some entities and may not be able to meet the goals that are set.
34 Craig said it might be good to talk about conservation practices that can be done by adaptive
35 management. Dick suggested adding adaptively manages grazing in the box. Amy will add the
36 language. Les would also like to add language mentioning that what is done on lands upstream
37 can affect lands downstream.
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40 **5.2.2**
41 Nicole asked how we measure the retention of base flow. Craig said that we don't have the
42 extensive water monitoring program like Stevens County. Amy said that it won't be mentioned
43 as a goal. Nicole said she was nervous to mention it in the plan because it is hard to measure.
44 Megan suggested replacing "improve base flows of streams and rivers" with "water conservation
45 strategies".

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47 **5.2.3**
48 Megan suggested adding "improves water conservation practices" to the chart. Nicole
49 suggested adding vague language saying supportive or open to water banking.

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51 **5.2.4**
52 Dick would like to add the Methow Restoration Plan to the chart. Angie suggested adding
53 Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan as well.

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55 **5.2.5**
56 Dick would like to replace "nutrient and pest management" with "water management".

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58 **5.3**
59 Dick said that Chelan County focused on ways to reach people instead of the numbers; they
60 believed that outreach would lead to participation. Dick feels this is the best approach. Bill said
61 it might be a good idea to look at similar counties to see how they approached the subject. The
62 tech panel really wants to see numbers. Megan said that if data exists, we should tap into it.

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64 **Table 5-1**
65 Amy explained the table to the group. They discussed what causes farmers to not report some
66 of the good practices they do. Les would like to add language about forest management for the
67 health of the trees.

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69 **3.2**
70 The group discussed the 3 different edits and possible changes in the language. Les motioned
71 to approve Perry's edit as amended, Jerry seconded, all approved. Under Perry's language the
72 group will add Dick's last paragraph as amended. Nicole motioned, Jerry seconded, all
73 approved.

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76 **Next Meeting:**

- 77 • Discuss Goals & Benchmarks
- 78 • Discuss Monitoring & adaptive management
- 79 • Select Lead Entity for Outreach/Implementation of the Work Plan
- 80 • Review Introduction

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83 **Adjourn:** Megan motioned, Nicole seconded.

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86 Rocky King
87 Admin Secretary