



Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A special meeting of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on April 26th, 2018 at 6:30
2 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan,
3 Washington.

4 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF** Director of Planning Perry Huston, Natural Resource Planner
5 Angie Hubbard, Administrative 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, Lynda Hofmann
9

10 **Approve Agenda:** Les suggested that the agenda be amended to include the approval of the
11 minutes. Jerry moved to approve as amended, Les seconded, all approved.
12

13 **Approve Minutes:** Les corrected to word selections to say sections. Nicole moved to accept
14 as amended, Jerry seconded, all approved.
15

16 **Chapter 6:** Amy went over the purpose of the chapter. She explained that conservation
17 easements and water trust was moved to their own lines so that we can get credit for them
18 towards enhancements. The group discussed the differences between them and other
19 practices. Dick asked how we will know we met the metric. Amy explained that they will mine
20 data from NRCS and other agencies. The group discussed the contents of the charts and how
21 the info was gathered and how it will be used.

22 Nicole asked if the areal imagery will be used to assess farms that are in critical areas or ones
23 that have volunteered for the program. Amy explained that the images will be used to track
24 changes. Nicole is concerned because the fires have caused our baselines to change. Her farm
25 may now show up as a wetland instead of the hayfield that it is. Dick asked if our baselines will
26 increase if a farmer is engages in restoring land after the fires. Amy said the commission left it
27 up to local agencies to monitor because they know what has happened in their counties. Les
28 mentioned that there is more than Mother Nature that causes changes and gave an example of
29 some logging that was done around his son's home and now there is flooding that wasn't
30 happening before. Nicole pointed out that our baseline was destroyed and she would like to
31 add language about the efforts to restore the baseline. The group discussed the best way to put
32 it in wording. The edit will say "Significant impacts to the critical areas have occurred from
33 wildfires in 2014 and 2015. Because of these historic fires, monitoring will have to consider the
34 status of the landscape prior to July 2014 to determine changes to critical areas by agricultural
35 activities. Future natural disasters may also be considered during monitoring and reporting."
36

37 **Ag Viability Goals and Benchmarks:** Amy said that she has sent chapters 5 and 6 to Evan
38 and he said we are on the right track. She went over the chapter for the group and pointed out
39 the changes that were made by direction of the group. The box on page 12 will say "the Right

40 to Farm Ordinance in the county exists and agriculture is effectively protected from nuisance
41 claims.” Dick suggested changing the words in the middle box at the top of the page to say “ag
42 practices continue to occur at similar or increasing levels.”
43 Amy informed the group that Bill Eller told her that we can reevaluate the plan and make
44 changes, over the years, as needed.

45
46 **6.3:** Amy explained the table and how it will be applied and monitored.
47

48 Nicole motioned to adopt section 5.4, Chapter 6 and section 6, monitoring tools, Jerry
49 seconded, all approved.

50
51 **Chapter 7:** Amy presented the proposed chapter. The group would like Okanogan County to
52 replace technical staff on the chart.

53 Megan motioned to approve chapter 7 as amended, Jerry seconded, all approved.
54

55 **Stewardship Checklist:** Amy explained the producer packet and how the farmer will use it.
56 The group compared the draft to Sevens County. Craig gave background as to why there are
57 no names on the check list. Megan doesn't like the way the last paragraph on page 3 is
58 worded. She feels a table would be easier to read. Les would like to add federal government to
59 the fish and wildlife section on page 3. Amy will rework the section.
60

61 **Maps:** The group reviewed the maps and Dick informed them that they are available online for
62 a site specific up close look. Nicole would like the maps to have more clear differences in the
63 colors. Amy suggested having more increments about 20". The group discussed geological
64 hazardous areas.
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67
68 **Next Meeting:**

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71 **Adjourn:** Les motioned, Megan seconded,
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73
74 Rocky King
75 Admin Secretary