



OKANOGAN COUNTY
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Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A regular session of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on May 4, 2017 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:** Les Kinney, Megan Kernan, Jerry Barnes, Dick
7 Ewing, Nicole Kuchenbuch

8 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin, Craig Nelson,
9

10 **Approval of Agenda:** Nicole moved to approve, Megan seconded.
11

12 **Approval of Minutes:** Les moved to approve with a couple corrections to grammar, Jerry
13 seconded.
14

15 **Expenditure Report:** Perry updated the group on how much has been spent and explained
16 that the A-19 from the last billing shows how much has been spent on reimbursement to
17 planning and the conservation district. Nicole asked if the group will need to spend the money
18 before the deadline. Perry said that there has been talk about the money being rolled over, they
19 are not planning on sweeping the money into other budget items. The group had decided to
20 stay the course. Perry offered to provide a monthly expenditure report.
21

22 Nicole moved to accept the expenditure report, Megan seconded.
23

24 **Update on the RFQ:** Amy and Craig excused themselves so that the group could talk freely.
25 Perry said that there had only been two submittals. Nicole asked if the group was to say that
26 there was not a big enough pool to make a decision, could they extend the submittal date?
27 Perry said that they could do that. Megan asked what papers would be best to publish in. Dick
28 suggested that they publish in the Daily Journal OF Commerce. The group agreed that it would
29 be a good idea to extend the publishing and make personal communication with the other
30 places that the group really wanted.
31

32 Jerry moved to resubmit the RFQ including the contact sources, Nicole seconded.
33

34 Jerry asked if the group went with another agency, could they still use the Conservation District
35 to gather certain information. Perry said that they could. Nicole pointed out that on the inside of
36 the cover page of the Grant and Whitman County plans, it shows that they retained ownership
37 and that is what we should do so that we have the freedom to input our own views. Megan said
38 the group should get their foundation from the Conservation District or the Grant County's data
39 package to provide it to the technical writer. Perry said that the group can cherry pick from the

40 submittals but they would have to advertise that. When the VSP began the BOCC decided to
41 leave the county as the lead agency instead of having the Conservation District as the lead
42 agency. The scope of work will be more compared to the contract the conservation district has
43 now. Dick said that he sees two additional needs from the Conservation District, an analysis of
44 all of the plans that may affect VSP in Okanogan County, and the chart that Harold produced.
45 Perry said that everyone needs to have a shot at submitting their resumes. Nicole asked if the
46 group can hire more than one. Perry said that he couldn't think of anything reason why they
47 couldn't but, it may make it difficult. He had not heard of that ever happening. Nicole pointed
48 out that the Grant and Whitman plans are basically the same until chapter 2. The group could
49 do some of the work and then get the data needed from the conservation district. Anchor would
50 not be able to do it without the data that the Conservation District has. Megan asked if that data
51 was public and able to use by anyone. Harold has offered to sell a package of Data that he has
52 put together. Dick said that the Conservation District is gathering all of the data from 2011.
53 Harold's charts will make it mean something once the conservation district is done. Perry asked
54 if the group was happy with the scope of work that the RFQ captured. Nicole said she wants
55 the work group to maintain the authority to establish benchmarks. She said that some counties
56 have given up that authority and she wants this group to be very involved.

57
58 Megan asked if the county will write the contract. Perry said that the county has many
59 templates that can be tailored to what is needed. After the group has approved the contract he
60 will then take it to the BOCC. Nicole asked who will own the data after the plan is made. Perry
61 said that all materials produced belong to the county; that is how we have written our contracts.
62 Nicole asked if it would be considered plagiarizing if the group used some of the material from
63 the other plans. Perry said it would depend on the contract; there is a difference between
64 owning the data and materials vs. a copyright. Nicole said that the Thurston and Chelan
65 County's Plans lack curb appeal but the Whitman and Grant County's Plans have a nice layout.

66
67 Megan asked that the new RFQ be sent to the work group via email. Dick suggested that the
68 corrections be highlighted. Perry said that the comments from the group need to be in by the
69 12th of May so that it can be published by the 17th.

70
71 **Implemented Practices:** Dick asked if we have to include the non-ag private land on the
72 reservation. Amy said that it will need to be addressed but, not included in the plan. Perry
73 explained that the two intergovernmental agencies work together and will include a narrative for
74 the relationship with the tribe in the plan. He suggested that the group checked the Yakima plan
75 to see how they handled it. Dick reminded the group that Harold divided Grant County into 8
76 regions and suggested that maybe Okanogan County can be divided into 3 regions. Amy said
77 that Okanogan County has mixed ag all over the county where Grant County is really
78 compartmentalized. Nicole said she prefers broad, all-encompassing plans; Harold's plan was
79 overwhelming. Megan agreed. Nicole pointed out that Craig's office was very helpful to reseed
80 many acres for grazing in private land after the fires. There is so much good work being done
81 on public lands that it would be nice to be able to capture that also. Nicole asked if this data is
82 included in NRCS. Amy said it is only Conservation District Data. Megan thought maybe you
83 would have to go through JARPA application data. Craig said that would work for instream stuff
84 but, some don't require permits. Amy said that in the future they will have to voluntarily come in
85 and report the projects to count toward their success. Perry told the group that environmental
86 reviews are done on major projects. They describe the totality of the work they will do. Dick
87 asked if that will fit in with the plans that have been done. Perry said that it will be a piece of it; it
88 would give direction. Amy said that Harold already has a system in place to present the data.
89 Dick asked if the group would need a different appropriation of funds for Harold or will the
90 Conservation District pay him. Amy said that it would be a matter of compensating the
91 Conservation District or Harold. There is still a lot of work that the Conservation District has to
92 do. Nicole said she thinks that we will spend all that we allocated for the conservation district.
93 They need that funding to collect the data. Perry said that the group can contract for a specific

94 item such as the data that Harold Created. He agreed to check with the state auditors to make
95 sure. Nicole suggested they include Anna Lyon in the Noxious Weed Department. Dick asked
96 to see a copy of the contract with the Conservation District.
97

98 Nicole asked how we would get the timberland to show as rangeland. Amy said that maybe we
99 could acknowledge that in a narrative in the plan. Nicole suggested that we make a note of
100 discrepancies in our plan and the different data sources. Dick said that if Harold's analysis is
101 included, that will show a number of more practices. Harold was encouraging farmers to
102 voluntarily come forward to get into the program by doing outreach.
103

104 **Review of Grant County Plan:** Megan doesn't see the benefit of taking 5 critical areas and
105 turning them into 4 attributes. Benchmarks are based off of attributes not the critical areas.
106 Nicole thinks that we have a benefit because other counties are close to submitting and we will
107 see what works. The Grant and Whitman County tables are almost exactly the same with only
108 a few small differences. It will be interesting to see if the plans make it through the approval
109 process. Chelan has maintained categories; we may not want to be complicated like that. Dick
110 said that the Whitman County plan identifies key critical areas in ag lands on page 14. Megan
111 said that they do that in the Grant county plan also but, then they measure shared attributes.
112 Dick said Chelan was successful by using the 5 critical areas. Nicole has objections to the first
113 chapter, page 2, line 39 and 40 because it implies that the site assessments are non-voluntary.
114 Dick asked if it is necessary to include it in the plan. Notice that it is not in the Whitman plan.
115 Maybe stick with the Whitman County section. Nicole does not like page 5, section 1.3 on the
116 Grant County plan. She likes the Whitman County plan page 4, section 1.4. Nicole suggested
117 the group focus on pg. 32 of the Whitman plan and pg. 40 of the Grant plan while they wait for
118 the new RFQ submittals.
119

120 **Next Meeting:**

121 Finish Review of the Grant County Plan-Highlight Areas where we need more info
122 Compare ag viability sections of Grant, Whitman, and Chelan County
123 Make a decision about getting data from Grant County-Perry will check with State
124 Auditor
125 Tribal Lands and Yakima County Plan
126

127 **Adjourn:** Nicole moved to adjourn. Megan seconded.
128
129
130

131 Rocky King
132 Administrative Secretary