



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 June 1st, 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, Planner I Pam Wylsson, Administrative Secretary Rocky King

6 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Les Kinney, Jerry Barnes, Dick Ewing, Maurice  
7 Joy, Robert Wilson.

8 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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10 **Approval of Agenda:** Jerry moved to approve, Les seconded.

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12 **Approval of Minutes:** Jerry moved to approve, Robert seconded.

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14 There was discussion about what role the tribal land will have in VSP. Perry agreed to reach  
15 out to the tribe and ask to if a representative would be willing to come and talk about their plans  
16 to deal with CARA.

17

18 **Decision on getting data from Grant County:** Dick showed the group the chart that was  
19 prepared for Grant County by Harold. Perry passed on to the group Megan's concerns that the  
20 funding will go away and her question of whether the work should be done now. Perry said that  
21 if the group hired the Conservation District and sub-contracted with Harold, there would not  
22 need to be an RFQ, just an IGA. He will take the contract from Harold to the BOCC on Monday,  
23 June 5<sup>th</sup>, to be signed. There was a discussion about how similar VSP is with what the  
24 Conservation District is already doing. Robert is concerned about losing acreage of his orchard  
25 if some of the practices are implemented. He thinks the more control we have, the better we  
26 are. It would really hurt us to lose control. Perry said that we need to create a methodology to  
27 get to our end result and Harold has done that.

28

29 Robert made the motion to move forward with the contract for \$3,000 to get the data form Grant  
30 County for the baseline conditions. Jerry seconded the motion. There were 4 in favor with 1  
31 opposed.

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33 **Update on the RFQ:** Angie stated that she has posted the RFQ in the Journal of Commerce  
34 for two different days, mailed it to 3 companies, and posted in the legal section of the local  
35 paper. The new deadline is June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. She will forward the proposals to the VSP group  
36 as they come in.

37

38 **Finish Review of Grant County Plan:** Dick asked the group if they like the headings. He  
39 suggested we use the same heading but change the text to fit what is in Okanogan County. Les

40 asked if we are putting in grazing on public lands as a necessity. Dick said yes, the table on  
41 page 10 would need to be Okanogan County specific. Perry said that we could appendix and  
42 map the irrigation district. Where they want to put the buffers is where the ag is. We need to  
43 show that the areas are not getting any worse. Les pointed out that some things that make it  
44 worse is Mother Nature and that this year is really bad. Jerry said that the non-district irrigation  
45 would be about 1/3 of what's in the district. Dick said that there is data in the watershed plans.  
46 Jerry pointed out that ag is effected by altitude in Okanogan County, not in Grant. Dick wanted  
47 to note that we understand what critical areas are and we are paying to them. On page 13  
48 section 3 (baseline condition), this is where Harold's chart fits in. The Conservation District is  
49 doing the map work that is on page 15. On page 16 Jerry noted that on the public lands that  
50 fish and wildlife own, there is a great deal more habitat ground then what is shown as public  
51 lands. Perry said he will ask Ted to look at the data related to critical areas and water rights. In  
52 recap Dick noted that this area should quantify public lands, quantify critical areas, identify ag  
53 land owned that are either leased or fallowed, water rights associated, and identify CARA and  
54 wetland recharge areas. Perry suggested that it is not only a good idea to quantify but to also  
55 map to make better conclusions. There is already a lot of it already done and we could have the  
56 information by the next meeting. Jerry objected to line 478-488 on page 29. He feels wildlife  
57 can adapt. Dick said the ag is a dedicated practice and it accommodates its own ecosystem.  
58 Perry reminded the group that milestones are a measure to make sure that things don't get  
59 worse.

60  
61 **Compare ag viability sections of Grant/Whitman/Chelan:** Dick said that the idea is to see to  
62 what extent we agree to answer our own questions on how much we want in our plans. Les  
63 said that Okanogan County will need to have a list for cattle grazing. The government controls if  
64 you can graze on the lands. They need to lighten up on non-compliance letters. Dick said that  
65 on table 3.3, under the stable and secure land base, we will add preservation of grazing  
66 allotment. Les pointed out that the two lands need each other. We need to add Marketing  
67 access for livestock as well. These types of things have a huge bearing on ag viability. It's fine  
68 to look at these charts and put all of this in the plan but, it's too hard to follow because there are  
69 too many variables that are out of our control. Perry suggested that we go back in the minutes  
70 to remind us what was said about ag viability.

71  
72 **Next Meeting:**

73       Go through RFQ submittals  
74       Update on Grant County Contract  
75       Look at info from Perry  
76       Continue goals and benchmarks CARA  
77       Report from Conservation District

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81 **Adjourn:** Les moved to adjourn. Robert seconded.

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83  
84  
85 Rocky King  
86 Administrative Secretary