



## Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A special meeting of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at  
2 6:30 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan,  
3 Washington.

4 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Director of Planning Perry Huston, Administrative Secretary  
5 Rocky Robbins

6 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** Jerry Barnes, Dick Ewing, Les Kinney, Maurice  
7 Joy, Nicole Kuchenbuch, George Thornton

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

10 **Approve Agenda:** Jerry moved to approve the agenda, George seconded, all approved.  
11

12 **Approve Minutes:** Jerry moved to approve the minutes from the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Les  
13 seconded, all approved.  
14

15 **Review Comments from the Technical Panel:** Craig informed the group that he feels that  
16 everything that needs to be in the plan is in the plan, there just needs to be more clarification.  
17

18 The group discussed the comments from the tech panel on the qualifications of the workgroup.  
19

20 Nicole suggested adding language that shows that the Tribe was contacted in the attempt to  
21 have them join the group. Amy showed the group where in the plan that outreach to the tribe  
22 was mentioned and stated she will add specific dates in Appendix J. Craig feels that there is  
23 enough info related to this in the plan already.  
24

25 Amy presented the comment pages from the tech panel and showed where she made the  
26 amendments in the plan. She reminded the group that VSP is not meant to focus on all the  
27 subjects that are handled in other plans. The group discussed only adding comments specific  
28 to the county instead of site specific. Amy suggested hosting links on their website for more aid  
29 in site specific issues.  
30

31 Dick suggested adding more specific language about critical areas intersecting with ag activity.  
32

33 Amy feels that it is most important to show acreage of coverage participating in VSP instead of  
34 the number of participants. She will clarify participation by tracking practices.  
35

36 Nicole pointed out that local agencies, like NRCS, are very active in our area. The group  
37 discussed WDFW's comment in Element E and how farms are already using NRCS specs when  
38 building fences and other activities like grazing management.  
39

40 The group discussed how hard it would be to monitor shrub-step lands. Amy said that her  
41 response to the tech panel will be that each species needs different levels of shrub-step and will  
42 be difficult to put in the plan but, info can be hosted on the website for site specific inquires.

43  
44 Amy will add the shoreline code to the plan. She will also add more detail of tools used in the  
45 monitoring section. She said that our monitoring is just as thorough as other counties and will  
46 add language stating it will be reviewed in two years to see how critical areas are being tracked.

47  
48 Nicole reminded the group that the goal of VSP is to lead with a carrot and not with a stick.

49  
50 **Implementation Phase:** The group discussed what the Conservation District is going to do  
51 during the winter months for implementation. Perry suggested amending the contract to allow  
52 spending the remainder of the contract money on implementation. He will review the contract  
53 and speak to the Conservation Commission to see what can be done. Nicole suggested  
54 meeting so that the group can discuss the options.

55  
56 The group will meet September 13<sup>th</sup>.

57  
58 Nicole motioned to direct Amy to prepare comments based on the discussion from the group  
59 this evening. George seconded, all approved.

60  
61 **Adjourn:** Nicole moved to adjourn and Jerry seconded.

62  
63  
64 Rocky Robbins  
65 Admin Secretary