



OKANOGAN COUNTY  
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## Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

A regular session of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on December 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington.

**OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Director Perry Huston, Natural Resources Planner Angela Hubbard, Planner 1 Pam Wyllson

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin, Bill Eller

**Approval of Agenda:** Mrs. Kuchenbuch moved to approve, Mr. Barnes seconded.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Barnes corrected the spelling of workgroup member's last names and then moved to approve the corrected minutes, Mr. Kinney seconded.

**Meeting with Conservation District:** Mrs. Hubbard have a brief overview of the meeting with the Conservation District. They discussed new projects and data from projects completed from 2011 until present. Amy Martin from the Conservation District informed the workgroup that they came up with a compilation of 16 organizations that would have been involved in any projects completed from 2011 forward. She also explained that it will be organized by watershed type, the activities of the project, and the acreage it covered. The data gathered will be provided as GIS data and given to Gene. There was discussion among the workgroup about what organization's data would be included. Mrs. Kuchenbuch asked if we were considering the critical areas on public lands or only private. Director Huston stated that we can take credit for everything on public land as well. The workgroup wanted the BLM, BPA, Colville Tribe, Yakama Tribes, CRM Water Developments, and State DOT to be added to the list of organizations that we receive data from. Mrs. Kuchenbuch stated her concerns regarding land purchases being detrimental to ag activities because they usually end up as unmanaged parks, she stated that she thinks those areas need to be kept in ag production or leased for ag activities. Mr. Ewing agreed with Mrs. Kuchenbuch that it's important to keep land in some form of ag production. Mr. Ewing asked what the cost would be for utilizing the conservation district to obtain this data. Ms. Martin stated that the rough estimate was \$20,000. Ms. Martin stated that it would take a few months allowing input from the group. She also stated that her preliminary budget should be done by the end of next week. Director Huston offered to do a special meeting when the preliminary budget was finished, to allow the BOCC to review the contract in January.

**RFQ vs RFP:** Mr. Ewing asked Director Huston what the differences are between an RFQ and a RFP. Director Huston explained than an RFQ is a request for qualifications, so the workgroup

would be choosing someone based on their qualifications. An RFP is a request for proposal, so they would be proposing the cost to hire that person and would essentially be choosing the candidate that has the most cost effective proposal. Director Huston suggested that the workgroup goes with an RFQ if bringing in outside help because then they will be able to choose the one with the best credentials.

**Review of Documents submitted by Mr. Ewing:** Mr. Ewing explained that the yellow areas on page five are the areas that need worked on. Page six outlines data they need for the baseline. Page seven are the goals and measurements for ag viability. Mrs. Kuchenbuch stated that they need to insert a bullet on public land acquisitions "Public land acquisitions shall continue historical levels of ag." She also stated that public lands are not being managed to their potential. There was also discussion on creating a matrix to provide to a landowner to see what type of measures they can take on their own property. Page eight is a document for land owners to fill out stated what they are going to do with their property. There was discussion on having Evan Sheffold conference call or come in person to the next meeting.

**Next Step:** The workgroup asked for Evan Sheffold to be contacted for the next meeting. The budget for the scope of work from the Conservation District. The Thurston County matrix to be e-mailed and mailed to the group. An estimated cost for the other activities the workgroup might decide to do. And a budget year to date of expenses that has been spent.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Barnes moved to adjourn, Mr. Kinney seconded.

Lauren Davidson Planner 1