

**Spokane County VSP
Work Group Meeting
Minutes
June 20th, 2018**

Work Group Members Present: David Boleneus, Judy Crowder, Casey Flanagan, Doug Greenlund, Kevin Paulson, Crystal Oliver, Robyn Meenach, Amanda Parish

Staff: Lindsay Chutas, Seth Flanders

Facilitator: Andy Dunau

Welcome, Minutes and Announcements: Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting. Draft April minutes were discussed. Robyn asked that minutes be corrected to show she attended the April work group meeting. With that change, Robyn made a motion to accept the minutes and Judy seconded. The motion passed.

Andy reported that he and Lindsay gave a short presentation to the county commissioners on status of VSP work plan, timing of local reviews by Spokane County staff and others, and plans for submission to the state at the end of September. SCD will do a fuller briefing in September, which will occur after local reviews are complete and before the draft plan is submitted to the state.

Workplan Development and Review Schedule

A draft schedule for review and completion of the work plan by the end of September was reviewed. The timing of submission is based on a request by Conservation Commission staff to Walt and Andy. The timeline was accepted with the following modifications:

- The next VSP work group meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. to allow enough time for review of final materials being drafted.
- Rather than separate presentations to key stakeholder groups in September, all stakeholder groups will be invited a public meeting at the SCD. In addition to what is shown on list, stakeholder invites should include the Wheat Growers Association, Spokane Cattlemen, and WSU Extension. Staff will work with work group in August to develop a robust invitation list.

Conservation Practice Template

The template was reviewed for establishing a baseline of conservation practices that were implemented during 2011 – 2016. The practices being counted are those that support the critical area needs identified in section 4.0 and other locations in the work plan. By monitoring the type and extent of conservation practices implemented since 2011, the work plan establishes measurable benchmarks for critical area protection.

In support of this, the group reviewed calculations for average annual implementation, estimated disenrollment, target levels for 2021 and 2026, inclusion of a safety factor, and an adaptive management trigger. Aspects of this methodology were used by the Walla Walla and Stevens County VSP work plans.

The enrollment data will be based on the conservation practice data base that SCD developed and is currently being populated.

Andy noted that the key conservation practices used in this table are identified in several places in the plan, providing a strong thread of consistency for the priorities and benchmarks being established in the plan. Along these lines, the group then reviewed a chart showing the “crosswalk” between a) key conservation practices identified for VSP and b) other plans created in Spokane County that support these same conservation practices. Discussion noted that the crosswalk does not include the Little Spokane River TMDL because it is not yet complete.

Robyn was interested in how to assure that information being mined from the conservation practice data base can be effectively shared as part of outreach. She will look into receiving mail lists from FSA to make sure SCD outreach database is as inclusive as possible. This fits well with the outreach section of the work plan.

Section 6 and Appendix F

Section 6 describes how the work plan aligns and supports related plans and regulations. The crosswalk chart is included in this section. Appendix F supports this section with a 12-page document reviewing and summarizing applicable regulations, plans, data and voluntary programs that the work plan is in alignment with.

The work group reviewed these materials. Casey requested, and the work group approved a change to the last sentence of the Endangered Species Act description. Andy asked the group to email further suggested edits of 6.0 and Appendix F to him.

Lands Council Technical Assistance and Project Capacity

David passed out a sheet of information and proposed to the workgroup that the Land’s Council be removed from the list of lead technical partners. This led to a motion by David that was seconded for the Lands Council to be moved from the list of primary technical partners to the supplementary partners list.

Amanda explained the field work the Land’s Council partakes in, their receipt of state grants for this work, and the professional background of staff. Lands Council work includes funding to support riparian and streambank restoration, use of analog beaver dams, and relocation of beavers. State grant requests are evaluated using the same standards as those for the SCD, tribes and others.

After discussion, the motion failed.

Additional Business

Andy reviewed chart showing which member terms expire at the end of September. Robyn recommended that a resolution be considered at the next meeting to extend these member terms until the work plan is approved by the state. This would provide better continuity before beginning implementation and bringing new members up to speed. Andy will include on next agenda.

Judy made a motion to meet at 5pm on August 15th meeting, Casey second, motion passed.