

**Spokane County VSP
Work Group Meeting
Minutes
October 18, 2017**

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

Staff: Lindsay Chutas (phone), Seth Flanders, Walt Edelen

Facilitator: Andy Dunau

Guest: Adam Cares, Stevens County VSP

Welcome, Minutes and Announcements: Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting. September minutes were discussed. David noted his name was left off the attendee list. Robyn made a motion to approve the minutes with that update. Amanda seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Andy reminded Kevin to please watch the Open Public Meeting Act training video. He will send link to his email.

The group then discussed the new meeting dates for the VSP work group. David has a conflict on Wednesdays, and Brent and Crystal have conflicts with Tuesday. Other days do not work for various reasons.

Judy motioned to oscillate between Tuesday and Wednesday every other month, David seconded the motion. The motion failed 6 to 3.

Doug motioned to hold workgroup meetings every third Wednesday of the month, Robyn seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 3.

Per last meeting, the group agreed to hold the next VSP workgroup meeting on Tuesday November 21st at the normal time of 6-8pm.

For December, Kevin motioned to move workgroup meeting to Wednesday December 13th, Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Andy reminded the group about the Spokane River Forum on November 15th and 16th. If a VSP workgroup member would like to attend, they should shoot Andy an email and he will register them. Andy will follow up with the group by sending out another reminder email.

Walt mentioned that the Food and Farm Expo is happening Friday and Saturday November 3rd and 4th. It is open to stop by and registration is still open for many classes.

Aerial Imagery Monitoring

Adam Cares from Stevens County did a presentation on using NAIP imagery acquired from USDA as a tool to monitor vegetative changes in habitat areas. The images are gathered from high altitude planes with multispectral cameras on it and are taken every two years. Adam has been working with Lindsay to develop this approach.

The approach uses the NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) to flag changes where negative or positive changes may have occurred when comparing one data set to another (e.g. 2011 to 2015).

A handout was provided and Lindsay walked the group through the process of how this could be used to provide watershed level monitoring that is consistent with the GIS approach already being used. The group felt the approach holds promise. It addresses needs for level of confidence, repeatability, reporting that does not run astray of confidentiality desires, and complementing other monitoring tools.

The group supports acquisition of NAIP imagery needed for Lindsay to conduct a proof of concept.

Review of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area and Wetlands Goal, Benchmarks and Monitoring

Karin Divens, the representative from WDFW that was assisting with habitat matrix and monitoring, suddenly passed away. Her celebration of life is on Saturday October 21st. The link will be sent out.

Before Karin passed, she reviewed and supported revisions based on September meeting. Judy introduced additional revisions which the group reached consensus on. The group agreed that no additional work will be done regarding monitoring and management trigger until Lindsay completes and reviews proof of concept with group.

The first draft of the Wetlands matrix was reviewed, including comments provided by Ecology VSP state and local representatives. Consensus was reached on revisions.

The group discussed additional performance and monitoring methods to support wetlands. Lindsay will follow-up and report back to group.

One vote was taken regarding a proposed change. Judy made a motion to take out the word “restore” out of voluntary enhancement objectives, and Kevin seconded. The motion failed 5 to 4.

Both matrixes will be updated and sent to group before the next meeting.

Staff recommended that frequently flooded areas and critical aquifer recharge be the next critical areas for benchmarks, goals, etc. to be drafted. Per previous research, frequently flooded areas

and critical aquifer recharge will rely on the existing regulatory backstop in place by Spokane County.

Additional Business

No additional business.

Closing and Action Items: Follow-up and action items include:

- Andy will draft and distribute October minutes.
- Lindsay will update matrixes based on group input, and follow-up on additional wetland monitoring options.
- Lindsay will begin drafting benchmarks for frequently flooded areas and critical aquifer recharge.
- Lindsay will initiate proof of concept for aerial imagery monitoring.
- Andy will send out reminder re SRF conference.
- Andy will remind Kevin to view Open Public Meeting Act training video.
- Staff will follow-up with NRCS to identify CRP acres in Spokane County.
- Seth will continue summarizing related plans.
- SCD will develop a strategy for a staff person to possibly be an ag viability liaison.
- SCD will begin to research with county opportunities to amend Conservation Futures Funding options to support commodity buffer program.