

**Spokane County VSP  
Work Group Meeting  
Minutes  
April 18th, 2018**

**Work Group Members Present:** David Boleneus, Judy Crowder, Casey Flanagan, Doug Greenlund, Ty Meyer, Kevin Paulson, Crystal Oliver, Brent Burger

**Staff:** Vicki Carter, Seth Flanders

**Facilitator:** Andy Dunau

**Welcome, Minutes and Announcements:** Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting. While waiting for workgroup members to arrive, Section 3.0 tables were discussed. Tables had been reformatted from previous meeting to give clarity and make more understandable. Workgroup reviewed and after a few minor layout changes, approved the new tables. After 5 workgroup members arrived, draft March minutes were discussed. Robyn made a motion to accept the minutes and Doug seconded. The motion passed.

The SCD annual tree sale just finished and was a huge success. With over 750 pre-orders, the most ever in tree sale, 90,000 stems were distributed from SCD. Larch and Pine surplus are still available for purchase from SCD.

Andy invited work group members to attend the H2O Breakfast. The keynote speaker, Sandra Postel, has traveled the world and written extensively about innovations and partnerships to meet water supply and water quality needs. Among these is direct seed and upland farming practices.

**Section 2.0**

The group suggested edits that will be incorporated and shown via track changes in digital hand-out. The group voted to retain development of an Agricultural Viability Advocate as a position.

The group suggested the addition of small farm programs into the section. Andy will look at the different options that can best fit and programs available for viability of agriculture.

**Review Section 3.0 Table**

The workgroup reviewed tables and revised layout of tables. Robyn asked to place wetlands number and percent are on the same line.

## **Review Work Plan Section 5.0 and Voluntary Stewardship Plan Checklist**

A number of edits were suggested and adopted. These will be shown as track changes in the next draft. Specific comments and requests included:

- David questioning why the Lands Council was listed as a technical assistance entity, particularly as he found information on their web site he didn't believe would be supported by farmers. Andy will ask Amanda to provide the committee an overview of The Lands Council work with farmers.
- A graphic will be developed to help readers understand options available for landowners to develop a Stewardship Plan Checklist.

### **Updates and Additional Business**

Vicki Carter provided an update on the meeting SCD held with farmers in Fairfield to explain and discuss their understanding of the MOA between Ecology and Riverkeeper. The MOA results from settlement of a federal lawsuit in which Riverkeeper challenged the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") approval of Washington Department of Ecology's Hangman Creek TMDL.

Of significant interest to farmers is a section of the MOA that specifically defines how Ecology takes action in places where landowners are considered to be in violation. Ecology has said that "contacts" meant starting with a phone call and support of voluntary actions to rectify an identified violation. This then progresses to letters and, if nothing is done, Ecology has the legal authority to enforce conservation efforts.

SCD will provide technical assistance and attempt to link farmers with programs to address needs. SCD will not engage in any enforcement actions or efforts that are not voluntary on the part of the landowner.

### **Action Items and Closing**

Spokane County updated its comprehensive plan. Critical Area plan definitions were updated, so Andy will update the work plan accordingly. Andy thanked Crystal for bringing this to his attention.

Seth along with Lindsay and Suzanne Tresko will continue to input data into the VSP Conservation Practices Data Base.

The focus for the next meeting will be to finish updates on current sections and integration of relevant regulations and plans, e.g.—TMDLs, watershed plans and Riverkeeper/EPA MOA.