

NO. **16 - 0052**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF DESIGNATING THE)
SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS LEAD)
ENTITY TO IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY)
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN SPOKANE)
COUNTY AS PROVIDED FOR BY ESHB 1886)
[RCW 36.70A.710 et seq.])

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.210(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (the "Board") has the care of county property and the management of county funds and business; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.7A RCW, the Board is required to adopt a Critical Areas Ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Spokane County and may amend the same; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 36.70A RCW, the Board adopted a Critical Areas Ordinance for Spokane County on March 26, 1996 under Resolution No. 96-0302 and amended said Critical Areas Ordinance on August 19, 2003 under Resolution No. 03-0754) and on June 8, 2008 under Resolution No. 08-0609; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature, through ESHB 1886, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for protection of critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities which was codified in RCW 36.70A.710 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.710(1) (a) states that "As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities though development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.060, the legislative authority of a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program."; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 11-1190, the Board conducted the requisite public notification and public hearing processes and nominated the entirety of unincorporated Spokane County, including all its watersheds, to participate in the VSP; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 11-1190, and upon receipt of funding from the state, the Board directed staff to develop and recommend proposed revisions to the Critical Areas Ordinance, consistent with RCW 70A.710 et seq. along with any regulations deemed necessary to serve the public health, safety, and welfare in Spokane County; and

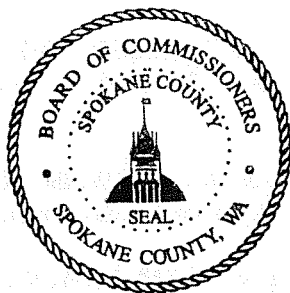
WHEREAS, on September 17, 2015, the Spokane Conservation District presented a scope of work, timeline and cost estimate to the Board to implement the VSP in Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2015, the Board met with staff and representatives from the Spokane Conservation District to deliberate effective implementation of the VSP.

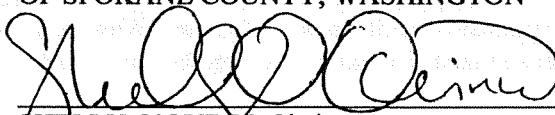
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to ESHB 1886 (RCW 36.70A.710 et seq. that the Board does hereby designate the Spokane Conservation District as the Lead Entity to develop and implement the VSP in Spokane County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, that the Clerk of the Board is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the State Conservation Commission as defined in RCW 90.58.065.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of January 2016.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

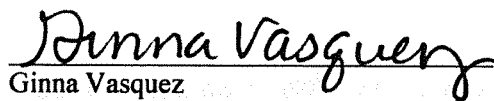


SHELLY O'QUINN, Chair



AL FRENCH, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:



Ginna Vasquez
Clerk of the Board



TODD MIELKE, Commissioner



September 17, 2015

Todd Mielke
Chair, Board of Spokane County Commissioners
1116 West Broadway Ave.
Spokane, WA 99260

REGARDING: Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

Honorable Chairman Mielke,

In July 2015, our State Legislature passed the necessary funding to implement VSP, which will be administered through the Washington State Conservation Commission. You will be receiving further communication directly from WSCC within the next few weeks.

In anticipation of selecting a lead entity, the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) is proud to offer its' professional services to guide and facilitate the upcoming VSP process. The SCD is well aware of the existing conflict between protecting agricultural lands and protecting critical areas in our local ordinances. We look forward to discussing and working through these issues and towards developing practical and reasonable approaches to resolving them. The SCD has a long and successful history working with groups, agencies, and most importantly; farmers and livestock producers in the rural parts of the county. Over the last 20 years, the SCD has guided or participated in many projects spanning across Spokane County, Hangman Creek and even northern ID. We facilitated the WRIA Planning process for the Hangman Creek Watershed, The Hangman Creek Bi-State Group, the 2010 AWEPP program, multiple TMDL groups, and currently facilitate the multi-WRIA Watershed Implementation Team.

The SCD is well suited to conduct this project as we have many ties to the agricultural community with our programs and projects. We are a trusted entity with the residents of the county and we strive to provide a balanced approach for protecting our local natural resources and agricultural interests.

In anticipation of designating a Watershed Group to lead the VSP process, we have prepared the attached VSP background, scope of work, and timeline for your consideration. We value our partnership with Spokane County and hope you will entrust SCD to work on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Vicki Carter
Director

cc: Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn
Commissioner Al French



September 15, 2015

Spokane County Commissioners
1116 West Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

Dear Commissioners,

On December 23, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 11-1190, electing to participate in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) as it pertains to a Critical Areas Ordinance in areas of the County dedicated to agricultural activities.

In July 2015, our State Legislature passed the necessary funding to implement VSP, which will be administered through the Washington Conservation Commission. You will be receiving further communication directly from WSCC within the next few weeks.

In anticipation of selecting a lead entity, we have prepared the attached VSP background, scope of work, and timeline for your consideration. We value our partnership with Spokane County and feel SCD would be the best representative to carry out the work on your behalf.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 509-535-7274 or email vicki-carter@sccd.org or Walt Edelen at walt-edelen@sccd.org.

More information can also be found at <http://scc.wa.gov/voluntary-stewardship/>

Sincerely,

Vicki C. Carter
Director

C: SCD Board
Ron Shultz, WSCC



Spokane Conservation District

Voluntary Stewardship Program for Spokane County

The Spokane Conservation District (SCD) would like to propose a plan to administer and facilitate the required Work Plan for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) in Spokane County. The following Scope of Work was developed to reflect the necessary VSP requirements in RCW 36.70A.720. The overall goal of the VSP process is to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watersheds designated by each participating County in Washington State. (RCW 36.70A.715)

VSP BACKGROUND & PROCESS:

1. **PURPOSE** VSP was enacted by the Legislature to create a voluntary process which counties could "opt into" to achieve Growth Management Act (GMA) goals. (See ESHB 1886/Chap. 360, Laws of 2011 codified as RCW 36.70A.700 et. al.).
2. **SCOPE** In general, VSP's goal is to "protect and enhance critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities through voluntary actions by agricultural operators." (RCW 36.70A.705) The law requires that VSP protect critical areas and support & enhance agriculture. In addition, VSP may also voluntarily enhance natural resources.
3. **FUNDING** Once the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) makes funds available to a county that has made the election provided in section 4(1) of ESHB 1886, the county must act within sixty days.
 - a. Spokane County "opted in" to the VSP Program on December 23rd, 2011 through Resolution # 11-190.
 - b. Spokane County has nominated all watersheds to participate in VSP.
 - c. \$150,000 for Year 1
 - d. \$120,000 for Year 2
4. **WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT** In order to develop a Work Plan, Spokane County must complete the following
 - a. Within sixty days of funds being available, the county must designate an entity to administer the funds
 - b. County may designate itself, a tribe, or other entity to coordinate the required watershed group.
 - c. Within sixty days of funds being available, the county must designate a watershed group.
 - d. County must confer with tribes and stakeholders before designating the watershed group.

SCOPE OF WORK

Project Title: Spokane County VSP Work Plan Development and Implementation

Project Description: The primary goals of this project are two-fold. The first part of the project will focus on the development of a Work Plan to protect critical areas of Spokane County while maintaining the viability of agriculture in each watershed. In addition to this, the watershed group will implement the plan once approved by the Director of the WSCC and funding is provided.

Project Start Date: January 1, 2016 (estimated)

PROJECT TASKS

Task 1. Project Administration

- A. The SCD shall administer and manage the project. Responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to: Maintenance of project records; submittal of payment vouchers, fiscal forms, and progress reports; compliance with applicable procurement and interlocal agreement requirements; attainment of all required permits, licenses, easements, or property rights necessary for the project; conducting, coordinating, and scheduling of all project activities; quality control; and submittal of required performance items.
- B. The SCD shall ensure that every effort will be made to maintain effective communication with the SCD designees, Spokane County, all affected local, state, or federal jurisdictions, and/or any interested individuals or groups. The SCD shall carry out this project in accordance with completion dates outlined in this Agreement.
- C. The SCD shall submit all invoice requests and supportive documentation, to the Financial Manager of Spokane County.

Deliverable(s):

1. Effective administration and management of this project
2. Maintenance of all project records
3. Submittal of all required performance items, Quarterly progress reports and financial vouchers, maintenance of all project records
4. Administration/Plan development contract with Spokane County

Year 1 (FY 16) January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016: Cost: \$ 4,800.00

(FY 17) July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017: Cost \$ 9,600.00

Total Task Cost \$ 14,400.00

Task 2. Watershed Group Development, Facilitation, and Expansion

The SCD has been a participant and facilitator in several watershed groups throughout Spokane County. Our current WRIA Implementation Team has stakeholders from many watersheds throughout the county. The SCD will solicit membership from these groups to form a core VSP Watershed Group. In addition, the SCD will invite participation from various agricultural based entities, private farmers, and special interest groups to represent Spokane County watersheds. SCD will then facilitate the watershed group with in-house staffing or contract consultant services as needed.

- A. Organize VSP Watershed Group: The SCD will invite a variety of stakeholders to convene a special VSP Watershed Group to help discuss and form the Work Plan.
- B. Develop Meeting Bylaws/rules/policies.
- C. Provide Facilitation Services for Watershed Group: The SCD will either provide in-house facilitation or contract consultant services for this task. Monthly meetings are expected.

Deliverable(s):

- 1. Development of Core VSP Watershed Group (wide variety of stakeholder representation)
- 2. Development of meeting bylaws/rules/policies
- 3. Provide facilitation services for VSP Watershed Group (agendas, minutes, etc.)
- 4. Monthly meetings

(FY 16) January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016: Cost: \$ 8,400.00

(FY 17) July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017: Cost \$ 16,800.00

Total Task Cost \$ 25,200.00

Task 3. VSP Work Plan Development

The 10-year VSP Work Plan will be created by a Watershed Group of broad representation of Spokane County interests. The Work Plan will be designed to protect critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture.

- A. Develop VSP Work Plan Elements (according to ESHB 1886 requirements): The Watershed Group will complete the following VSP requirements;
 - a. Identify critical areas and agricultural activities
 - b. Identify public outreach plan to contact landowners
 - c. Identify entity(ies) to provide landowner assistance (voluntary stewardship plans)
 - d. Identify measurable programmatic and implementation goals and benchmarks
 - e. Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and required species recovery data and plans

- f. Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders
- g. Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks
- h. Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to producers and operators in the various watersheds
- i. Create measurable benchmarks that, within 10 years after receipt of funding, are designed to result in the protection and enhancement of critical areas functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures
- j. Incorporation of existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection
- k. Establish baseline monitoring for;
 - i. Participation and implementation of voluntary stewardship plans and projects
 - ii. Stewardship activities
 - iii. Effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to protection and enhancement benchmarks
- l. Develop timeline of periodic evaluations, adaptive management, and provide written reports of plan status/accomplishments to county and WSCC
- m. Coordinate monitoring programs with other state agency activities

Deliverable(s):

- 1. VSP Work Plan for Submission to WSCC

(FY 16) January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016:	Cost: \$ 20,000.00
(FY 17) July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017:	Cost \$ 40,000.00
	<u>Total Task Cost \$ 60,000.00</u>

Task 4. Public Outreach & Technical Assistance

The VSP Watershed Group will develop ideas to disburse plan updates and information to the public. Special efforts will be directed towards agricultural producers and operators in Spokane Watersheds.

- A. Develop a Webpage for VSP Project: This website will include program description, goals, and products for public review. It will also include meeting minutes, dates and agendas for future meetings.
- B. Public meeting(s) will be held as needed.
- C. Additional public outreach will be determined by the Watershed Group.
- D. Provide technical assistance to operators/producers if funding is available.

Deliverable(s):

1. Develop and maintain webpage for VSP Process
2. Public meeting(s) as needed/required
3. Additional public contact to be determined

(FY 16) January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016: Cost: \$ 7,000.00

(FY 17) July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017: Cost \$ 8,000.00

Total Task Cost \$ 15,000.00

FY 16/17 Project Budget by Task

Task 1	\$ 14,400.00
Task 2	\$ 25,200.00
Task 3	\$ 60,000.00
Task 4	\$ 15,000.00
Total Cost	\$ 114,600.00

FY 16/17 Project Budget by Element

Salaries:	\$ <u>60,000.00</u>	
Benefits:	\$ <u>28,600.00</u>	
Indirect costs:	\$ <u>26,000.00</u>	(Up to 25% of employee salaries and benefits)
Total Cost:	\$ <u>114,600.00</u>	

- ❖ Remaining funds after the first year of work are anticipated to be used for implementation and technical assistance to operators and producers.
- ❖ The second year of funding for the VSP process is expected to be \$120,000. Depending on the status of the VSP Work Plan approval with WSCC and Technical Panel, these funds will either be partly used for additional work on the Plan elements (if required) or will be utilized for implementation of the VSP Work Plan (projects, technical assistance). A new budget will be developed and approved by the VSP Work Group.

AGENDA SHEET

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Utilities

CONTACT PERSON: Rob Lindsay

PHONE NUMBER: 477-7576

CHECK TYPE OF MEETING ITEM BELOW:

2:00 PM CONSENT AGENDA:
BY LEAVE:

5:00 PM LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
BY LEAVE:

SPECIAL SESSION:

BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Clerk's Resolution No. 16-0052
Approved: Majority/Unanimous _____
Denied: Majority/Unanimous _____
Renews/Amends No. _____
Public Works No. _____
Purchasing Dept. No. _____

AGENDA TITLE: In the Matter of Designating the Spokane Conservation District as Lead Entity to Implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program in Spokane County as Provided For by ESHB 1886 [RCW 36.70A.710 et seq.]

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to ESHB 1886, in July 2015 the Washington State Legislature created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for protection of critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities; the VSP was codified in RCW 36.70A.710. The program is administered through the Washington Conservation Commission. The VSP provides an alternative approach for counties to address Growth Management requirements for agricultural activities. This negotiated program uses a watershed-based, collaborative stewardship planning process, relying on incentive-based practices that protect critical areas, promote viable agriculture, and encourage cooperation among diverse stakeholders.

Washington state grant funding is available for the program; a total of \$270,000 is available over a period of 2 years.

Pursuant to Resolution 11-1190, the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County (Board) conducted the requisite public notification and public hearing processes, and nominated the entirety of Spokane County for the program.

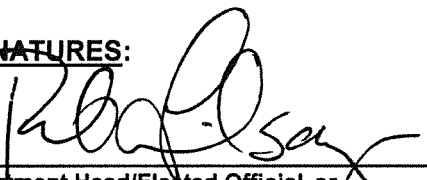
In September 2015 the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) presented a proposal (attached) to Spokane County to be the Lead Entity to implement the VSP on behalf of Spokane County. The SCD has extensive contacts throughout Spokane County agricultural community, and has been implementing conservation programs in Spokane County for over 20 years.

In December of 2015, the SCD met with Spokane County staff and the Board to discuss the VSP and the role of the SCD. The Board confirmed their interest to designate the SCD as Lead Entity to implement the VSP in Spokane County. Additionally, the Board agreed the SCD could accept the VSP grant funding directly from the Washington Conservation Commission on behalf of Spokane County.

RECOMMENDATION: Designate the Spokane Conservation District as Lead Entity to implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program in Spokane County. Authorize the SCD to accept the grant funding on behalf of Spokane County.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. County staff will participate in the VSP as appropriate.

SIGNATURES:



Department Head/Elected Official or Designated Authority (Requesting Agenda Item)

Gerry Gemmill
Chief Executive Officer

DISTRIBUTION AFTER COMMISSIONER ACTION: Utilities

This item needs to be codified in the County Code Book.