

**Spokane County VSP
Work Group Meeting
Minutes
November 21, 2017**

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

Staff: Lindsay Chutas

Facilitator: Andy Dunau

Welcome, Minutes and Announcements: Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting. Draft October minutes were discussed. Robyn made a motion to accept the minutes and Casey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy announced the SRF Conference was successful last week. The conference included a discussion on Non-Point Source pollution, which is relevant for the discussion with the VSP group. Cheryl Nagle was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. After hearing her presentation, the SCD is interested in bringing her to Spokane to meet with different producer groups. This outreach opportunity may pair well with VSP outreach responsibilities. Robyn was enthusiastic about the opportunity and would be interested in having the Farm Bureau explore partnering with the SCD on it. The group was supportive and SCD agreed to further explore and report back.

Update on Aerial Imagery Monitoring: Lindsay discussed that Spokane County's GIS department currently is stitching together the 2011 and 2015 NAIP imagery to be made usable for riparian analysis. Lindsay expects to know more about the delivery of the stitched images after Thanksgiving.

Review of Frequently Flooded Areas and Critical Aquifer Recharge Matrices:

The group was presented with the first draft of the matrix for the Frequently Flooded and Critical Aquifer Recharge critical areas. Lindsay has been reaching out to Spokane County and Ecology technical experts for further input. Some input has been received. Input from VSP group will be used to seek additional input as well.

Regarding Critical Aquifer Recharge, the following highlights comments and input:

- The goal will be edited to assure intersect areas are focus.
- The word "protect" is preferred over "maintain," and "minimize" preferred over "prevent."
- Examples for Benchmark A description should include petroleum/chemical storage, and livestock nutrient management.
- Applicable regulations will be further detailed.

Regarding Frequently Flooded Areas, the following highlights comments and input:

- Add conservation tillage to Benchmark A examples.
- Work with County and Ecology to determine if Community Rating System is an appropriate performance metric and monitoring method.
- Judy and David are researching alternatives to use of FEMA flood hazard map for comparative GIS mapping.

Staff took notes on additional wording changes and will release a track change update (including addition feedback from technical experts) prior to the next meeting.

Judy reiterated her desire to see matrices before the meeting. Staff reiterated concerns about sharing work before technical expert input received, and that first review never includes “vote” to accept.

Additional Business No additional business.

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

- Andy will draft and distribute November minutes.
- Lindsay will update matrixes based on group input and initiate Geologic Hazard matrix.
- Lindsay will continue to work on proof of concept for aerial imagery monitoring.
- 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.

Next Meeting: The next VSP meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13, 2018 at 6 pm.