



Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

A regular session of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on September 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Commissioner's Hearing Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington.

OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF: Director Perry Huston, Natural Resources Planner Angela Hubbard, Planner 1 Pam Wyllson

VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS: Bill Tackman, Lester Kinney, Megan Kernan, Jerry Barnes, Dick Ewing

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lynda Hofmann

Approval of Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda Jerry Barnes made a motion to approve the agenda, Megan Kernan seconded.

Approval of Minutes: Jerry Barnes made a correction that Lynda Hofmann was at the last meeting. Jerry Barnes approved of the new structure for minutes. Jerry Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes with the above mentioned change, Tackman seconded.

Overview of documents in handout: Mrs. Hubbard gave a brief overview of the documents in the packet handed out.

Definitions: WAC 365-190-030 A brief overview on how agricultural land and critical areas are defined.

Critical aquifer recharge areas: Mrs. Hubbard stated this is the WAC classification criteria to assign critical areas. There was a brief discussion on aquifer recharge areas and sole source aquifers. The agricultural can help recharge the aquifer and have a positive impact.

Frequently flooded areas: Mrs. Hubbard suggested using the FEMA maps for these areas.

Geologically hazardous areas: Mrs. Hubbard stated this is the WAC classification criteria to assign critical areas.

Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas: Mrs. Hubbard stated this is the WAC classification criteria to assign critical areas.

State list of species: A list of species from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife showing Washington states endangered threatened and sensitive species was in the packet. There was clarification on what the meaning of the dash next to some of the species. The dash shows the species is not on the federal list. Specific information was included about the American White Pelican, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, North American Lynx, Greater Sage-Grouse, Common Loon, and Bald Eagle. There was discussion about the species handouts. Some gave specific areas others described the type of area the species lived in. There was also discussion on including species in the process that are not on the list and would this benefit the process.

Mitigation: The packet included Draft Critical Area Ordinance 14.12.640 Compensating for wetlands impacts, Pg. 47 from the shoreline master program, and WAC 173-27 environmental impact mitigation. Perry Huston gave a brief explanation of mitigation. If an allowed activity impacts a critical area you can mitigate or enhance another area that may increase the overall benefit to the critical area.

303D list: The handouts included definition of the five categories of water quality and a list of all the waterbody's in Okanogan County with the category. Mrs. Hubbard advised that the only category they need to worry about is 5.

Projects in Okanogan County: Mrs. Hubbard noted that this is not a complete list and that she would continue to work on the list. It was noticed that most of the enhancement projects occurred in the Methow. Mrs. Hubbard confirmed that the only enhancement projects on the list will be ones that went through the county SEPA process. The question was asked on how do we show they help Ag or habitat.

8-31-2016 webinar: Mrs. Hubbard was asked if portions of the webinar should be presented to the VSP group. Mrs. Hubbard stated that there was no usfull information for the VSP group. It was decided that Mrs. Hubbard would forward future webinar information to the SVP group. The members can chose to watch if they want. The planning staff will have someone watch the webinar each month. The group was invited to come and watch the webinar with planning staff each month.

2017 Budget: Perry Huston asked how they would like to spend their budget. The available budget is \$150,000. It was decided to earmark \$125,000 for professional services and \$25,000 for planning photocopying and staff time. Group wanted to know what resources the other counties have used. Can extra money be bumped over to the next year's budget.

Next month: The work group requested examples from other counties. They would like examples emailed two weeks before October 6, 2016 meeting.

Outreach: Perry Huston talked to Jackie. She is interested and will try and clear her schedule. Yakima nation did not respond to him. Even Shuffles from the Farm Bureau extended his services.

VSP seat openings: Perry Huston stated he would talk to the commissioners about a replacement for Stokes.

Adjourn: Megan made a motioned to adjourn the meeting, Tackman seconded the motion.

Pam Wyllson
Planner

