

Walla Walla County VSP Work Group

November 4th, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2025 Time: 1:00 p.m. Via: In-person and Zoom

Work Group Members Present:

David Talkington, TSS Lindsey Williams, WWCC (zoom) Phil Neumann, Mainstem Malt (zoom) Randy Bright, Ag. Community (zoom) Ryan Rea, Ag. Community

Absent:

Brian Burns, TSS; Judith Johnson, Kooskooskie Commons; Tom Schirm, WDFW ex-officio; Dana Sheedy, CTUIR; Jackie McCool, WDFW

Also present: Don Schwerin, Supervisor of WWCCD; Grace Cooper, Jenny Freer, and Annie Byerley of WWCCD. Roman Rangel, Walla Walla Community Development, Ceana Pacheco, WWCC

The meeting began with welcome and introductions.

New or interested work group members: None at this time.

Meeting paused at this time for a request of public comments. There were none.

Project Approvals:

• Request to approve signing on as STAR Navigator:

Cooper shared that STAR stands for Saving Tomorrows Agricultural Resources. This program allows producers to enter their information and the program will give them a star score that would then direct producers to funding programs and technical assistance. Cooper is requesting to sign up as a navigator which would allow the VSP program to see cumulative results within Walla Walla County.

Talkington motioned and Neumann seconded to approve Cooper signing up as the STAR Navigator, as presented; motion passed.

 Request to Vote on and Approve Frequently Flooded Areas changes to work plan:

Cooper gave the board three options for the Frequently Flooded Areas portion of the work plan. After discussion, the work group chose to have a goal to protect flood event resilience; with a benchmark of No Removal of installed floodplain restoration projects with an outreach strategy of increasing communication with landowners and partners to identify new floodplain restoration projects.

Talkington motioned and Rea seconded to approve rewording the frequently flooded areas portion of the work plan as presented; motion passed.

• Request to Approve the work plan changes as discussed on October 7th:

Cooper requested a motion to approve the previously discussed changes to the work plan including the addition of adaptive management where appropriate.

Neumann motioned and Bright seconded to approve the changes made to the work plan as presented; motion passed.

Request to discuss and approve changes to the Geological Hazardous Areas:
 Cooper shared that the GHA for soil erosion from wind and water needs restructuring to match the new table and wording change for consistency; no other adaptive management. GHA landslides and steep slopes need the verbiage to be more inclusive; no other adaptive management. GHA liquefaction needed restructuring; no other adaptive management.

Bright motioned and Williams seconded to approve the changes made to the Geological Hazardous Areas portion of the work plan as presented; motion passed.

The meeting was unofficially adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Freer

Work Group Member

WWCCD

Next meeting: December 2nd 2025 at 1 pm