



## Walla Walla County VSP Work Group Jan 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Date: January 7, 2019 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: USDA Service Center Conference Room

### **Board Members Present:**

Judith Johnson, Kooskooskie Commons; Brian Burns, Tri-State Steelheaders; Jason Bulay, BMLT; Brian Maiden, Ag. Community; Jonathan Hellberg-Wilson, Ag. Community; Robert Riley, Ag. Community

**Absent:** Work Group members Mark Klicker, Ag. Community; David Haire, CTUIR; & Tom Schirm, WDFW

### **Also present:**

Renee Hadley, Lisa Stearns of WWCCD, Steven Poulos of Tri-State Steelheaders  
Walla Walla County: Commissioner Todd Kimball and Tom Glover, Dept. of Community Development

### ***In the absence of both the chair and vice-chair, the meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Renee Hadley***

Minutes for both months moved to approve by Riley, seconded by Bulay. No discussion, motion passed.

Hadley provided an overview of “revVSP\_projects\_forRanking\_20181204” spreadsheet and how VSP work group members sorted through the projects at the previous meeting for additional consideration.

The remaining VSP budget for Walla Walla County can accommodate about \$75,000 for implementation. It was asked if the funds need to be allocated by June 30 or spent by then? Spent by June 30th. Funding starting July 1 is uncertain. Funding for VSP for next biennium was included in the Governor’s budget but still has to pass Legislature and Senate.

The technical lead (WWCCD) completed some monitoring and goals as outlined in the plan in advance for the 2-year report due shortly after June 30.

In addition, Hadley and Stearns attended State Conservation Commission Regional Meeting in Moses Lake.

### **Discussion on spreadsheet**

Can the projects with only technical assistance (TA) count towards VSP goals? Yes, any effort related to critical areas completed within the county completed through the VSP work group or by other can be counted towards VSP goals.

What do the numbers in the left-hand column represent? NRCS practice codes.

Raptor perches: Some were not selected to proceed with VSP funds because WSDOT may fund some mitigation work in those areas. The middle Touchet, it was noted there is an active raptor nest in the vicinity. Access roads and Water control structures. Discussion on accuracy that DOT is responsible. Glover confirmed county roads have a 30 ft right of way from centerline. Comment: If the owner would want to voluntarily improve it, that is

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what VSP supports. Secondary Containment Facilities meaning fuel and chemical. Discussed EQIP funding may be available and non-NRCS cooperators. Grassed Waterway, Critical area Planting, Filter strip. May or may not include implementation but only TA to start of the Russell Creek project costing \$4250. Wetland enhancement, wetland restoration, and exclusion fencing are the biggest dollar projects but were considered to be priorities based on the impact to multiple critical areas (water quality, waterways, habitat...).

Is the same amount expected to be available next biennium? Uncertain

Are there larger projects that are not included in this VSP list? Yes, some projects were not included on the VSP projects list because other cost-share funding was available or the project could not be completed before the end of June (for example: instream work). Hadley, yes other funding sources will be pursued and opportunities with local agencies can be discussed outside the meeting. The project list should be considered to be a starting point based on known interest. Additional projects could be added to the list and run through the criteria and reviewed by the VSP work group as projects arise.

Motion to move forward with project marked as green or yes in "revVSP\_projects\_forRanking\_20181204" spreadsheet by Maiden. Seconded by Johnson. Motion Approved.

A field trip of VSP projects is anticipated in May or June.

There was discussion regarding monitoring. Hadley & Johnson agreed to discuss and report back to the work group.

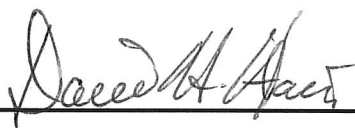
**Public Comments:** None

**With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted



Lisa Stearns  
WWCCD

 Vice Chair VSP

Walla Walla VSP Workgroup member

Next meeting (tentative): late March/early April 2019