



## Walla Walla County VSP Work Group May 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: May 5th, 2021 Time: 1:00 p.m. Via: Zoom, call-in only

### **Board Members Present:**

Robert Riley, Ag. Community	Judith Johnson, Kooskooski Commons
Brian Burns, Tri-State Steelheaders	David Haire, CTUIR
Brian Maiden, Ag. Community	Jonathan Hellberg-Wilson, Ag. Community
Lindsey Williams, WWCC Ag. and Nat. Center of Excellence	

**Absent:** none

**Also present:** Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann of WWCCD; Donald Sims, WW County Planning  
Tom Schirm, WDFW

***The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair David Haire.***

**Minutes:** The March 2021 minutes were presented and reviewed. Hellberg-Wilson moved and Johnson seconded to approve the minutes, motion passed.

### **Action items/Discussion:**

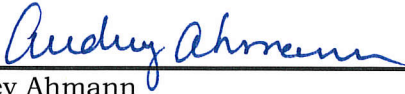
- 1. Vacancies on the Work Group:** Lindsey Williams introduced herself. Her education includes a degree in Forestry and completion of the Ag. Forestry Leadership Program. Vice-Chair Haire thanked her for volunteering to join the Work Group. He nominated her for one of the two open positions on the Work Group. Her nomination was approved with no dissenting votes. Members agreed to continue seeking someone to fill the remaining vacancy and took no action on nominating a chair.
- 2. Discussion: Commission Request:** Hadley spoke to Bill Eller of the State Conservation Commission (SCC). Eller manages the VSP program on behalf of the SCC and assists Work Groups in meeting the goals of VSP. He suggested the Work Group meet more often and take a more active role in guiding progress. Hadley sent the VSP Policy Advisory #3 to the Work Group members which details the roles of the Work Group. In brief, after completing the work plan, members are to 1) monitor progress of the County in meeting goals and benchmarks 2) develop and implement adaptive management if needed and 3) report to the County on success or lack thereof. It was the impression of the group that these tasks are proceeding well but chose to adopt a more frequent meeting schedule. Members requested more reports and updates on progress. The Work Group agreed to meet July 6th and quarterly thereafter.
- 3. Reporting:** Hadley explained two reports are due this year (in addition to regular quarterly reports). The 5-Year report, due 5 years after the date of funding (March 2016), was submitted March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Comments are expected by May 7<sup>th</sup> and the state final review is due to the County in October. (The time allows for public comment and to address reviewers' responses.) The regular 2-year report is due in August and Hadley will send out a draft in July. This report will include projects developed with VSP cost share.
- 4. Review and Discussion of VSP Implementation Criteria:** The "Criteria for Walla Walla

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VSP implementation” handout was reviewed. Hadley drew attention to the excerpts of meeting minutes where the WW VSP work group provided guidance on prioritizing projects. The district has been using this guidance for project selection. Although additional discussion was planned, technical difficulties abruptly ended the meeting.

During an attempt to reconvene the meeting, David Haire requested an update of efforts to find alternate funding sources to address critical areas (including fisheries) related to agriculture for discussion at the July meeting.

Respectfully submitted



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Audrey Ahmann  
WWCCD

/S/: David H. Haire (10-5-2021)

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David Haire  
Vice- Chairman

Next meeting: July 6th, 1:00 pm