

Adams County VSP Work Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Work Group Members	Other Attendees
Grant Miller – Landowner	Evan Sheffels – Washington Farm Bureau
Lynn Olson – Landowner	Heather Kosaka – Ecology
Rex Harder – Landowner	Eric Pentico – WDFW
Dave Leatherman – Landowner	Barb Kincaid – BHC Consultants
	Ben Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting
	John Small – Anchor QEA
	Nora Schlenker – Anchor QEA

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Barb Kincaid (BHC Consultants) was introduced. She is working with Adams County as a contract planner overseeing special projects. She will continue to track the progress of VSP in coordination with Tim Unruh (Adams County). Ben and Barb will check-in outside of the Work Group Meeting to provide her with information on the status of Adams County VSP Work Plan.

Status of Adams VSP Work Plan

The Work Group reviewed the comment response matrix that was completed in June 2017. The comment regarding the addition of aerial image analysis to the habitat indicators was discussed (Comment 2). Specifically, it was discussed that the analysis proposed in the Work Plan is contingent on adequate funding. Additionally, it was discussed that the accuracy of the aerial imagery review at the 5- and 10-year VSP Work Plan performance reviews would be supplemented by field verification.

The proposed changes regarding the open space definition and Odessa groundwater project were approved by the Work Group (comments 11 and 12). It was noted that the edit regarding Cow Creek minimum flow requirements was not complete (comment 20). Additional edits were suggested and final language will be reviewed by Rex Harder before being added to the revised Work Plan. The comment regarding the definitions of conservation practices in the Self-Assessment Checklist was discussed (comment 31), and it was decided that a footnote would be added to the Checklist describing that there are a variety of implementation methods that are acceptable within each type of conservation practice. Additionally, two FAQs were requested to be added regarding privacy and the difference between GMA and VSP.

The Work Plan will be updated with the edits in the comment response matrix and those comments noted above. The new draft Work Plan will be completed in early December and will be sent to the

Work Group and uploaded to the Adams County VSP website. A mechanism to receive public comments will be included on the website (either an online comment submittal or dedicated email address).

Public Outreach Meetings

Public outreach meetings will be held to provide information on VSP to the public and to help facilitate receiving public comments on the Adams County VSP Work Plan. It was determined that two public meetings will occur in January. The meetings will be held in Ritzville and Othello on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 and Thursday January 18, 2018 from 3:00 to 5:00. Meeting information will be posted to the Adams County VSP website. In addition, email and newspaper notices will be used to advertise the meeting to the public (see lists below). These notices will be sent in early January.

Potential Email Lists

- Wheat Growers Association
- Washington Cattlemen's Association
- Farm Bureau
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Potato Commission
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- WSU Extension

Newspapers

- Moses Lake Sun Tribune
- Adams County General
- Basin Business Journal

A notice on the status of the Work Plan and the public outreach meetings will be prepared and provided to the Work Group for distribution to associations and the public. Additionally, a short outreach handout will be prepared to provide an overview of the Adams County VSP Work Plan which can be distributed with the notice and handed out at the meetings. Some hard copies of the draft Work Plan will be available at the meetings, too.

It was also discussed that Work Group Member participation in the public meetings is encouraged and having at least one Work Group Member present to open the meeting would be ideal. If you are interested in attending a public meeting please contact Nora at nschlenker@anchorqea.com.

Next Steps

The Adams County VSP Work Plan will be updated, sent to the Work Group, and uploaded to the Adams County VSP website in early December. Public meeting dates and locations will be finalized and notices will be sent to Work Group Members for distribution. Additionally, the short outreach handout will be prepared for distribution. Meeting notices will be sent to email distribution lists and posted in newspapers in early January, as noted above. Public comments on the Adams County VSP Work Plan are due February 23, 2018. Proposed revisions based on public comments will be discussed at the next Work Group meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Adams County Building.