

**FRANKLIN COUNTY VSP
WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES**

March 23, 2017

**Franklin Conservation District
1724 E. Superior Street, Pasco WA 99301**

ATTENDED BY

Kent McMullen (FC NRAC), Dave Solem (SCBID), Kelly McLain (WSDA), Evan Sheffels (Farm Bureau), Loren Wiltse (Franklin County Planning & Building), Debbie Berkowitz (LCBAS), Mike Ritter (WDFW), Mark Nielson (FCD), Heather Wendt (FCD), Brian Cochrane (Wheat), Dr. Kevin Lindsey (EA Engineering), Josh Jensen (Anchor QEA), Ben Floyd (Anchor QEA), John Small (Anchor QEA).

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ben Floyd welcomed the group and introductions were made. Josh provided a Work Plan Overview. The Work Plan will be presented in two volumes. Volume 1 will be easy to read, focused on the end-user, and avoid being too directive/keep options open for producers. Volume 2 will include the technical appendices. The Work Group has the ability to move content between the volumes as they see fit.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

Ben reviewed the items that were discussed during the optional February workshop.

- CPPE with direct connection to physical locations
- Calculating direct and indirect critical areas effects
- What does implementation and monitoring look like
- How to account for discontinuation of practices

During the workshop Debbie recommended using photos of critical areas over time to document their protection. Kelly McLain indicated that in Pacific County's VSP plan they included spot checks on a certain percentage of critical areas to verify that they match the values assigned by CPPE.

WORK PLAN VOLUME 1 REVIEW

Mike Ritter and other work group members commended Anchor QEA for the professional look and readability of the Work Plan.

- Page 3 it was recommended to change the third question from "What happens if I do not participate in VSP?" to "What are the advantages of participating in VSP?"

- Page 5 – Anchor QEA will develop a separate section to address Ag Viability and send it out to the group for review. WSDA’s database tracks land use and may be helpful in determining if there is a loss of ag lands from year to year.
- Pages 8 & 9 – Dave Solem will check and see what photos the SCBID has.
- Page 17 – The fact that there is little private land ownership along the Esquatzel Wasteway makes it an insignificant ag. intersect with critical areas. Mike Ritter suggested referencing the language in the Shoreline Master Plan when discussing the Esquatzel Wasteway. Need to replace the photo on this page. Anchor QEA will develop a separate section to address Esquatzel Coulee/Wasteway and send it out to the group for review.
- Page 18 – bottom box – replace “western” with “Washington” in reference to ground squirrels.
- Page 19 – side box – remove grouse and jackrabbits and add burrowing owls
- Page 20 – Figure 3.1 – Spelling “Critical”
- Page 21 – add the words ‘and managed’ to “Privately owned lands” Add footnote – “Some privately owned lands may be managed by others not in VSP.”
- Global – Add captions to all photos
- Note – Work group members are encouraged to submit photos
- Note – Kelly McClain said that the Tech Panel likes what Pacific County is doing. They are relying on CPPE to characterize their efforts but will also be conducting physical assurance site visits of 10 to 15 percent of total projects implemented under VSP every 1 or 2 years to see if the scoring matches what they see on the ground. The Work Group was in agreement with this.

NEXT STEPS

April 14, 2017 – Submit initial comments on this draft to Josh: jjensen@anchorqea.com

April 28, 2017 – Next Meeting Date – at the FCD Office – 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Public Comment / Other:

ADJOURN

The meeting concluded at 3:00 pm