

Ferry County VSP Work Group Meeting Notes

Monday, November 20, 2017

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Julie Olsen – Landowner

Dolly Watkins – Landowner

Johnna Exner – Ferry County Commissioner

Mary Kalinowski – Ferry County Planning Director

Amber Green – Ferry County Assistant Planner

Lloyd Odell – Ferry Conservation District

Sandy Dotts – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ben Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting

John Small – Anchor QEA (by phone)

Vivian Erickson – Anchor QEA (by phone)

Summary of Action Items

- **Vivian:** Add Sandy Dotts (WDFW) to Work Group distribution list.
- **Mary:** As we move forward with Work Group meetings, help verify whether we have a quorum at meetings. Meetings can occur without a quorum, but voting cannot occur.
- **Lloyd:** Post meeting announcements on the Ferry Conservation District (FCD) website and key locations around the County community areas.
- **Mary:** Post meeting announcements on Ferry County planning website.
- **Vivian:** Send meeting participants training link for Open Public Meetings Act. *Link is provided below and was emailed to the Work Group on Wednesday, November 22.*
<http://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-training>
- **Johnna, Lloyd, Ben, and Vivian:** Will follow-up to see how many members are on Work Group and whether BOCC (and FCD) members can be a voting member of the Work Group. *During the meeting, we discussed that other county VSP work groups have included elected County officials and Conservation District representatives as voting Work Group members.*
- **Work Group Homework Assignments:** responses to the following assignments were requested by Friday, December 8.
 - Frequently Asked Questions: Please review and provide comment on the example FAQs document (example from Lincoln County attached). Please provide feedback to Vivian (vshinerickson@anchorage.com) on whether this list of questions speaks to Ferry County landowners and if we need to consider adding/removing any questions.
 - Agricultural Viability Handout (provided by email on Wednesday, November 22): Please review draft agricultural viability tables and survey questions and provide feedback. You can also provide feedback via the online survey form at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z65RWLP>

- Photos: Please provide agriculture-related photos and critical area photos of Ferry County to Vivian or Lloyd by email. Photos are also welcome after the next meeting, which is scheduled for December 18.

Follow-up Items from October 18 Work Group Meeting

- Work Group status update –
 - Johnna is working on a Resolution with the BOCC to formally establish VSP Work Group as an official advisory board. Status update will be provided at the next Work Group meeting.
 - Going forward we need to verify that we have a quorum (Mary to keep track).
 - Work Group is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
 - Lloyd agreed to take care of meeting announcements and posting notices.
 - Mary will have a post on the planning website.
 - Vivian will send a link Open Public Meetings Act training video for us all to watch.
 - Washington Open Public Meetings Training should be completed by Work Group members (training video link: <http://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-training>) by January 1, 2018.
 - Work Group Ground Rules were reviewed and approved as a working draft.
- Cattlemen’s Association Meeting – Scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2017. Lloyd will be attending and presenting on the Ferry County VSP.
- Data
 - Lloyd is working on compiling data for conservation practices implemented since 2009 tracked by the Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - CPTS (Conservation Practices Tracking System) – should be available for the December meeting; data is available starting in 2009
 - NRCS practice data may come later depending on NRCS coordination
 - Sandy will provide enhancement projects tracked by Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) that have been implemented, respecting the privacy by keeping project implementation location details to a watershed scale.

Conceptual Overview of Work Plan: Sections 1 through 3

Ben and Vivian presented an overview of Work Plan Sections 1 through 3, including preliminary baseline summaries and maps. Section 1 through 3 draft report sections will be available for Work Group review prior to the next Work Group meeting. Summary discussion included:

- Chapter 2 – Regional Setting:
 - Look further into WRIA 51 to see whether to include in County’s Work Plan. Work Group discussed that 99% of WRIA 51 is in Whatcom County with barely any agricultural activities occurring within the County portions.
 - Verify whether any lands within WRIA 51 have any fee lands – mostly tribal trust lands.
 - Land ownership: confirm public and private land acreages. Work Group discussed estimate that 22% of land in County is privately owned and 78% is publicly owned or within the Colville Reservation.
 - Agricultural landcover:
 - Confirm range versus cropped lands. Confirm how dryland cover was determined. Range and dryland landcover can overlap, depending on the year the data was summarized (use at time of aerial imagery).
 - Need to define private timber lands which are also grazed.
 - Review Assessor’s data for acreage included in the Hancock land; 8 to 10 corporations own that land and could account for up to a third or more of the private land in the County.
 - Planning units: Use “Watershed Areas” instead of “Community Areas”
- Chapter 3 – Baseline Conditions:
 - Work Plan needs to take a balanced approach on agricultural viability versus critical areas.
 - Work Plan should consider that a lot of activities (such as forest practices related to logging activities) occurs upstream of agricultural lands and the streams and adjacent agricultural lands are affected by this upstream activity, which is outside the scope of VSP.
 - Work Group discussed keeping wind erosion data and maps in the Work Plan and to include discussion that it is not a big concern in the County.
- Chapter 4 – Protection and Enhancement Strategies (preliminary discussion)
 - Nutrient management is not a large concern in the County.
 - Timber management strategies should be included in the Work Plan for practices that promote agricultural viability and to help manage Douglas Fir Bark Beetle and associated wildfires threats.

Next Work Group Meeting Dates and Milestones Schedule

- Next Work Group Meeting will be held on December 18, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- The following milestones schedule and deliverables were also discussed. *Greater details in the milestone schedule are provided in these notes as a part of follow-up action.*

WG Meeting Date (Mondays, 5 to 7 pm)	Discussion Topics	WP Review Chapters
Nov. 20	Discuss Ch. 1 through 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG formation status (resolution) • CA/Ag intersects • Ag Viability/SWOT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag viability survey • FAQs • Ground rules • Work Plan Outline
Dec. 18	Discuss Ch. 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and Enhancement Strategies • Practices Implemented since 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1 – Intro • Ch. 2 – County Setting • Ch. 3 – Baseline/Existing Conditions • VSP Map Folio
Jan. 15	Discuss Ch. 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and Benchmarks • Adaptive Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch 4 – Protection and Enhancement Strategies
Feb. 12	Discuss Ch. 5 and 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussion on Adaptive Management • Discuss implementation and outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch 5 – Goals, Benchmarks and Adaptive Management
Mar. 19	Discuss comments received on plan	Compiled Draft Work Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6 – Implementation and Outreach • Appendices
April/May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April – Break for Draft Work Plan Review • May – Reconvene to discuss any final revisions to the Work Plan • Work Group vote to submit Work Plan to State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment/Response Matrix • VSP Overview and Checklist
June to Aug 2018 based on Tech Panel schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Technical Panel Review • Ferry County Work Plan Approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Draft Work Plan • Final Draft WP for TP submittal • Final Approved Work Plan