



Walla Walla County

VSP Work Group

October 1st, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. Via: Zoom and in person

Work Group Members Present:

Dana Sheedy, CTUIR

Brian Burns, TSS (zoom)

Judith Johnson, Kooskooskie Commons
(zoom)

Randy Bright, Ag. Community

Jackie McCool, WDFW

Lindsey Williams, WWCC (zoom)

Tom Schirm, WDFW ex-officio

Absent: Phil Neumann, Mainstem Malt, Ryan Rea, Ag. Community

Also present: Grant Traynor, Jenny Freer, Alison Crowley, Renee Hadley of WWCCD. David Talkington of TSS.

The meeting began with an invitation for public comments. There were none.

Approval of meeting minutes: After review, **Williams motioned and Bright seconded to approve the June 2024 minutes as presented; motion passed.**

New or interested work group members: None at this time.

Project Approvals:

- **Request for blanket approval to apply for Capital funding for VSP projects.**
Approval to apply for supplemental funds from the Capital Budget. October 29 is the deadline to apply and there is not another Work Group meeting until December. Grant informed the group likely projects at this time include replacements for fish screens and flow meters.
Burns motioned and Bright seconded to approve apply for supplemental funding for future projects as presented; motion passed.
- Request for approval for Soil Testing or other Upland Ag Viability Efforts: A request was made to get approval for Soil Testing with comments on what opinions the work group had related to other Upland Ag Viability Efforts. The work group requested more specific details/projects prior to approval.
Motion delayed until further review

VSP Monitoring:

- **Request approval to combine Rock Glade and the Walla Walla watershed for reporting purposes.** Rock Glade watershed infiltrates a small portion of Walla Walla County and should be included within the monitoring of the watershed.
Williams motioned and Bright seconded to approve the combining of Rock Glade and Walla Walla watersheds for reporting purposes as presented; motion passed.
- **Two Requests to alter Fish and Wildlife Habitat Work Plan Goals:**
 - **Change the FWH Protection Goal for assessment of fish passage barriers to an Enhancement Goal**

- **In place of the current Fish Passage Barrier Protection Goal, have a different protection goal of “No new fish passage barriers”** These requests were offered by VSP Technical Panel Advisors. This allows for unknown new barriers to arise without the program being in violation of RCW 77.85.
- **These motion requests are on hold until the December Work Group meeting.**
- **There were 2 requests regarding Work Plan goals for Fish Screens and Flow Meters:**
 - **Clarify the wording for these goals. Right now it is ambiguous on what the sample size and “do something” levels of the goals.**
 - **Change screen/meter functionality from Protection Goals in the Work Plan to Enhancement Goals. A possible replacement Protection Goal recommended by VSP Technical Panel Advisors was having screen/meter outreach and replacements be Protection Goals.**

The outreach and sample size portions of these goals are vague and need to be clarified. Fish Screen Goal: should be changed to 30 people reached every 2 yrs with a goal to have at least 85% of screens functional. Flow Meter Goal: Should be changed to reach out to 30 people (or 10% of flow meters on record) every 2 years with a goal to have at least 80% of flow meters functional. Due to screen/meter functionality changing rapidly (ex. in cases of flooding), these should be turned to an enhancement goal instead of a protection goal.

- **This motion request is on hold until the December Work Group Meeting.**

VSP project updates: Traynor updated the work group on projects:

- Ohima Rd Riparian – One acre was funded by the Conservation District with another acre funded by the landowner. 18k for this project included debris removal. This site was part of the State Partner VSP tour. Native grass plantings need further assistance for growing opportunities.
- Mojonier Rd Riparian – This project is currently in the hands of the contractor and is being completed.
- Lower Waitsburg Rd Riparian – 2 acres is currently in the hands of a contractor and is being completed.
- Equestrian Way Riparian- Land owner is completing this project and is hoping to seed this month.
- Screens and Meters: 7 fish screens were installed with 2 still waiting to be installed. 6 Flow meters were replaced.

Program Updates: Traynor presented that for Wetlands monitoring that the goals have been met for 142 mapped areas with 30% accurate. Fish Screens and Flow Meters had a functionality audit that was completed. This resulted in 83% of functioning fish screens and 81% functioning meters. Fish passage barriers had 13 barriers assessed this last spring. Ferruginous Hawks preferred food is extinct so a pocket gopher/Hawk meeting is being held next week to go over preferred hawk prey and their habitat in Walla Walla County. Monitoring guide has been submitted.

Partner Updates:

R. Hadley, WWCCD: 4 instream projects were completed this summer. A livestock meeting is going to be held in November. Over the last 5 years, 345 acres of riparian was installed.

VSP October 1st 2024 Work Group Meeting Minutes

J. McCool & T. Schirm, WDFW: WDFW is replacing Mr. Schirm with two new employees.

B. Burns & D. Talkington, TSS: The 5th Ave project is almost completed. Large woody debris is going in the Walla Walla River next year. Gose Street fish ladder is in the design phase at this time.

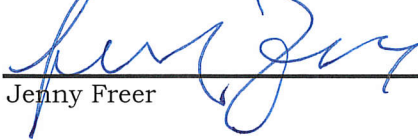
D. Sheedy: shared that 2 Acoustic Current Profilers (ACPs) for flow monitoring. 4 stations deployed in Yellowhawk, Walla Walla River, & Lower Mill Creek. More work being done in Oregon.

R. Bright: shared that the weeds got the best of his land this year and tree mortality got hit by the time irrigation water ran dry. Continuing to deal with Hemlock issues.

L. Williams, WWCC: WWCC is looking to fill the position of a Plant and Soil Science instructor along with a Dean of Workforce. Enrollment at WWCC is up 12%.

Bright motioned and Williams seconded to end the meeting at 2:47pm; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny Freer



Work Group Member

WWCCD

Next meeting: December 3rd 2024 at 1 pm