

Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Whitman County's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Watershed Work planning process is getting underway. VSP is an optional, incentive-based program created as an alternative approach for counties to protect critical areas on agricultural lands. Counties "opting-in" to VSP will develop a Work Plan as an alternate method of meeting the Washington State Growth Management Act's (GMA) critical areas protection requirements while enhancing the viability agriculture. VSP is supported by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), Washington State Farm Bureau and many others.

Twenty eight counties have "opted in" to the VSP, including Whitman County. Whitman County has recently formed its Watershed Group, which includes a broad representation of key watershed stakeholders and who is responsible for developing the Work Plan for the County.

The Work Group will be meeting regularly throughout the year to develop the Work Plan, supported by the Palouse Conservation District, Whitman County, and Anchor QEA (consultant).

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of these meetings to be a part of the process. 2016 meetings will be held on:

- April 7
- June 2
- July 7
- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1

Watershed Group regular meeting location and time:

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Whitman County Public Works Auditorium
310 N Main St, Colfax, WA 99111

Watershed Group Members:

Name	Affiliation
Alan Thompson	Whitman County Planner
Art Swannack	Whitman County Commissioner
David Lange	Whitman Conservation District
David L Swannack	Agriculture
Jeff Pittmann	Whitman County Farm Bureau
Joan Folwell	Palouse Prairie Foundation
John Pearson	Agriculture
John Stuhlmeier (Primary) Evan Sheffels (Alternate)	Washington State Farm Bureau
Jon Jones	Agriculture, former Department of Ecology Staff
Kim Weerts	Whitman County Cattlemen's Association
Larry Cochran	Palouse Conservation District
Nancy Belsby	Whitman County Water Conservancy Board

Name	Affiliation
Tracy Ericksen	Agriculture

For more information and to stay involved:

- Contact Alan Thomson with Whitman County at Alan.Thomson@co.whitman.wa.us, or Palouse CD staff
- Visit the WSCC's VSP website: <http://scc.wa.gov/voluntary-stewardship-program/>
- Attend an upcoming Watershed Workgroup meeting