Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

Joint Meeting of the VSP Statewide Advisory Committee and VSP Technical Panel

*ONLINE Only (via Zoom) – Recording available here: **February 11, 2026 Joint SAC/TP Meeting***

The Washington State Conservation Commission's (Commission/SCC) Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) convened a meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Technical Panel (TP) for a joint regular meeting on February 11, 2026, via Zoom. On behalf of Chair James Thompson, SCC VSP Coordinator Mike Poteet called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

SAC MEMBERS PRESENT	TP REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT	COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT
Ben Buchholz	Levi Keesecker, SCC	Paige DeChambeau, Communications Director
John Stuhlmiller	Teresa Opolka, ECY	Mike Poteet, VSP Coordinator
David Troutt	Tom O'Brien, WDFW	Jodi Prout, Education and Outreach Manager
	Leslie Michel, WSDA	Sarah Wilcox, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Lisa Olsen (non-voting)	Sean Williams, WDFW	
	Chelsea Wilson, ECY	

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE	ORGANIZATION
Keaton Martin	Asotin County Conservation District
Deanna Elliot	Columbia Basin Conservation District
Brad Johnson	Palouse Conservation District
Deborah Johnson	WA State Department of Health
Grace Cooper	Walla Walla County Conservation District
Sydney Balderston	Foster Creek Conservation District

Updates

A series of updates related to program functions was provided by the VSP Coordinator. Updates addressed the following:

- Status of county submissions of 5-year reports
- Status of Technical Panel commenting windows for Group1 and Group 2 counties
- Notice that the 27-29 biennium budget development process has begun across SCC
- VSP staff working on Adaptive Management support plans for late 2026
- VSP Program Guidelines are set for expansion (including revisions) and adoption by early 2027
- Following the conclusion of the 5-year reporting cycle, SAC will be supporting VSP staff in development of two mandatory reports to the legislature due in 2027

Action Items

1. SAC Rules & Procedures Adoption
   Motion (Stuhlmiller → Troutt): To approve the Rules and Procedures as presented and submitted for consideration by the SAC. (Motion passed 3-0).

Other Information

The SAC was given an overview of the supporting documentation that will be provided by VSP Staff in advance of the review meetings to be held for each group of counties' five-year reports.

The SAC gave feedback on preferred meeting structure to hear each county's report summary and then proceed with recommendations for each county.

The SAC received a refresher on how the Technical Panel is conducting their reviews and the tools in use for report submission and report reviews. Previews of TP Comment documents were given. The SAC was given more information on how their recommendations for each county will go into the broader determination process for the SCC Director.