Walla Walla County Conservation District
July 2025 Board Meeting

Date: July 14, 2025 Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Chair
Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Matt Williams, Jesse McCaw
Supervisors absent:
Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Lindsey Williams, WWCC
Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer
Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.

Kent invited the public to comment. There were none.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the June 9th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the June 9 board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the June Financial Reports. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date July 14th 2025 the Board reviewed the June financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15208 to 15228 and 8 EFTs, revenues $225,922.79 and expenses $135,223.09; total of bank accounts $211,462.45.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

1. **Partner Updates:**
    a. **WWCC: Williams** updated the board that Williams was named as the new Dean of Workforce at Walla Walla Community College. The farm that the college acquired is still in working order and will help supply food for the culinary program.
    b. **NRCS: Krueger** shared that there is a hiring freeze at this moment but our local office has three staff members. New sign-ups for programs will begin late fall.
    c. **SCC: Hadley** shared on behalf of the SCC that they are closing up their fiscal year and getting ready to release FY 26 funding.
    d. **WACD: Hadley** shared on behalf of WACD that they are reaching out to the Attorney General for guidance on contracts with FSA that have a Conservation

District sign-off line and the requirements regarding responsibilities by all parties as it pertains to these contracts.

2. **Quarterly Summary of Office Lease Contributions: Hadley** shared that at the end of Quarter 2 of 2025 the District has contributed $7,750 for a 2025 total of $21,708.70 to the districts office lease agreement.

3. **Self-Evaluation: Hadley** shared that each year the board needs to complete a Self-evaluation of their progress for the CAPP. Discussion was had about how the board feels they are closely aligned with the mission of the district and how great the collaboration was with coming together for the annual plan of work.

4. **Request to approve new projects as presented.**
    a. **Caldwell Creek Riparian, SCC: Hadley** shared on behalf of Cowles-Cleveland and Cooper that there are two landowners on Caldwell Creek and pond. Project area may range from 0.7 – 1.7 acres. Estimated budget: $30,000-$40,000.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the Caldwell Creek Riparian project through the SCC, as presented: motion passed.

    b. **Yellowhawk Creek Flow Meter, Voluntary Stewardship Program: Hadley** shared that there is one landowner along Yellowhawk Creek. Landowner irrigates about 1.25 acres of residential lawn with a surface diversion on Yellowhawk Creek. Project application would propose replacing 1 flow meter. Estimated budget: $1,700.
    c. **Dry Creek Flow Meters and Fish Screens, Voluntary Stewardship Program: Hadley** shared that one landowner along Dry Creek that irrigates about 360 acres (mainly grass/alfalfa used for grazing and haying). The landowner has 5 pump locations that need flow meter and/or fish screen replacements. The proposal includes replacing 4-5 flow meters and 2 fish screens. Estimated budget range: $20,000 to $25,000.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve the two projects through the VSP program, as presented: motion passed.

5. **Request to approve an expense authorization for lunch on 08/13: Hadley** shared that the WSU grad students will be visiting the office on August 13 from 10:30 to 1 and she would like to offer them lunch.

Motion by Matt Williams and second by Jesse McCaw to approve lunch for WSU on August 13, as presented: motion passed.

Program Updates:

A.) **Agricultural Burn Summary for Spring: Hadley** shared on behalf of Byerley the results of the Spring Burn Permit program. Schwerin requested a map of permits by type; field, spot, and pile. This has not been created in the past.

B.) **District Operations: Hadley** shared a copy of the district operations report which summarizes the above grant applications along with upcoming trainings and partner meetings. A discussion was also had about current district legal or complaint issues that the board needs to be aware of. A discussion was also had about the districts vehicle (Escape), consensus at this time is to repair over replacing.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: Upcoming timeline for the reviewing of applicants for the district manager position.

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Freer
District Staff

Board member

Next meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the June 9th meeting minutes as written	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To review the June Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve Caldwell project with the SCC, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To approve 2 projects of meters and screens with VSP, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve lunch for meeting on 08/13, as presented	Motion: Williams Second: McCaw Motion passed