



Walla Walla County Conservation District  
May 2026 Board Meeting

Date: May 11, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person at USDA and via Zoom

**Presiding Officer:** Don Schwerin, Vice Chair

**Supervisors Present:** Jesse McCaw, Matt Williams, Jim Kent, Chair (via zoom)

**Supervisors absent:** Rhonda Gothberg

**Other Agencies:** Tami Stubbs, SCC (via zoom), Bryce Krueger, NRCS, Jadie Jackson, NRCS

**Also present:** Annie Byerley, Jenny Freer, Grace Cooper, Jake Mantela

**Members of the Public:** None

***The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Don Schwerin.***

Schwerin invited the public to comment. There were none.

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the April 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve the April 13 board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

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

**As of this date May 11th 2026 the Board reviewed the April financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15354 to 15377 and 9 EFTs, revenues \$438,730.38 and expenses \$449,452.99; total of bank accounts \$313,148.08.**

**(Total Matches Springbrook)**

**New Business:**

- 1. Partner Updates: Stubbs, SCC;** reminded the board and staff that Riparian Grant Program is accepting applications for mid-biennium funding opportunity that is due June 5. Forest Health had a workshop that will also have funding available. Free Facilitation Training hosted by Washinton Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network on May 12-13<sup>th</sup> in Cle Elum and Land Use training hosted by the Community Wildfire Planning Center in partnership with DNR is being held June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Vancouver, WA or June 4<sup>th</sup> in Wenatchee. The Commission meeting is next week when elections will be certified. Maggie M. has been promoted to Riparian Grant Program Manager. Interviews have taken place for the Northeast Regional manager position and more interviews will be held soon for the Puget Sound Regional Manager, Director of Programs, and Strategic Initiatives Manager. **Krueger, NRCS;**

shared that CSP received a few approved contracts. Ducks Unlimited is also partnering with NRCS which includes a new staff member for CRP programs, Jadie was introduced. **Byerley**, on behalf of **WSU Ext.** shared that Morgan Menaker has joined the Blue Mountain Agronomy Team partnering with Rachel Weieme. Crop tours will be held in Walla Walla on June 5. **Byerley**, on behalf of **Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board** wanted to share that there is a rebate program available to control selected noxious weeds in the County and Poison Hemlock has been added to the list. Applications are available at the WSU Ext. office. **Byerley** also shared that **WACD** had their legislative day which had a focus on the election process.

**2. Request to Approve New Projects:**

- a. **SCC Sustainable Farms & Field TA Funding:** **Byerley** shared that SFF has funding that allows for Technical Assistance. This request is further our soil health initiatives. This request is for \$14,310.

**Motion by Matt Williams and second by Jesse McCaw to approve applying for Funding through the SCC's Sustainable Farms and Fields program, as presented: motion passed.**

**b. Riparian Grant Program Proposed Projects: Applications due 06/05**

- i. **West little Walla Walla:** **Byerley** shared on behalf of Cowles-Cleveland that all of these projects are in collaboration with Kooskooskie Commons. This project consists of 12.7 acres with an estimated cost of 76k.

**Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve applying for funding on the West Little Walla Walla, as presented: motion passed.**

- ii. **Maintenance on Yellowhawk:** **Byerley** shared on behalf of Cowles-Cleveland requesting funds for maintenance on Yellowhawk with 4.5 acres and an estimated cost of 30k.

**Motion by Matt Williams and second by Jesse McCaw to approve applying for maintenance funds on Yellowhawk, as presented: motion passed.**

- iii. **New Project on Yellowhawk:** **Byerley** shared on behalf of Cowles-Cleveland a new project also on Yellowhawk with two landowners. The acreage is estimated between 0.6 to 1.8 and estimated costs of 10k-20k.

**Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve applying for funds for a new project on Yellowhawk, as presented: motion passed.**

- 3. Request to Approve the Annual Plan of Work:** Byerley shared changes made from board recommendation from the previous meeting and is requesting approval of the Annual Plan of Work.

**Motion by Matt Williams and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the Annual Plan of Work for FY 27, as presented: motion passed.**

- 4. Request to Surplus Items:** Byerley shared that in preparation of new hires coming in there are some older items that need to be surplussed due to being outdated. These items include one 2-drawer filing cabinet, one oversized 2-drawer filing cabinet, one desk with a drop-down keyboard slot, and three computer monitors.

**Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve the district to surplus items, as presented: motion passed.**

- 5. Request to Approve Placing Districts Logo & Heritage Garden info on Kooskooskie “Every Drop Counts” Campaign:** Byerley shared that Kooskooskie Commons is having a campaign called “Every Drop Counts: Easy ways to save water and protect our watershed! This request is to add WWCCD’s logo to the promotional materials and our QR Code for WWCCD’s Heritage Garden Program.

**Motion by Matt Williams and second by Jesse McCaw to approve adding the Districts Logo and QR code to Kooskooskie Commons campaign for Drought, as presented: motion passed.**

- 6. Soil Health Brainstorming:** Byerley shared that the Board has always asked the district to do more with soil health. A discussion around what that looks like currently, in the future, and the benefits to the county ensued. A request was made to have Rachel Wieme join us at our next board meeting to see what ideas or tools can help us reach our soil health goals.

#### **Program Updates:**

- A.) District Operations:** Byerley shared a copy of the district operations report which summarizes the above projects along with upcoming trainings and partner meetings.
- B.) Bureau of Reclamation Projects:** Byerley shared a Power Point Presentation describing the BOR Touchet Levee Group and Gardena Farms projects. Maps were shown of the site and what the project entails and where the projects stand at this current moment.


**Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 6:45 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Jenny Freer  
District Staff



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Board member

**Next meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Motions:**

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| To approve the April 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written                 | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Williams<br>Motion passed |
| To review the April Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented | Motion: Williams<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed |
| To approve apply for SFF funds, as presented                                     | Motion: Williams<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed |
| To approve applying for RGP West Little Walla Walla, as presented                | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Williams<br>Motion passed |
| To approve applying for RGP Maintenance on Yellowhawk, as presented              | Motion: Williams<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed |
| To approve applying for RGP New Yellowhawk Project, as presented                 | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Williams<br>Motion passed |
| To approve the Annual Plan of Work, as presented                                 | Motion: Williams<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed |
| To approve surplussing items, as presented                                       | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Williams<br>Motion passed |