



Walla Walla County Conservation District
March 2026 Board Meeting

Date: March 9, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person at USDA

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Chair

Supervisors Present: Jesse McCaw, Rhonda Gothberg, Don Schwerin, Matt Williams

Supervisors absent:

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Tami Stubbs, SCC

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

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 February 9th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve the February 9 board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

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

As of this date March 9th 2026 the Board reviewed the February financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15325 to 15337 and 10 EFTs, revenues \$259,397.52 and expenses \$231,569.88; total of bank accounts \$300,557.22.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Updates: Kruger, NRCS;** Area meeting was held last week in Spokane staff learned that streamlined paperwork is coming soon. Applications are being ranked now for CSP and EQIP. There are currently funds available for some grazing BMPs and Air Quality. **Stubbs, SCC;** shared that there is an additional \$8,700 in funds available through NRI. CAAP assessments have gone out to districts. Legislation reforms that were causing concerns did not move forward this year. The budget decision will be coming down on Thursday to determine which packages will be awarded. The SCC has positions available for tribal liaison and regional managers. **Byerley,** shared that WWCCD will be partnering with Department of Ecology to hold a meeting on March 24th from 7-9pm to discuss 'Developed' water.

2. Request to Approve New Projects:

- a. **Streamflow Grant for Touchet 33: Byerley** shared that the Department of Ecology has a Streamflow grant application available and WWCCD would like to apply for 1.8 million to complete Touchet River Mile 33 instream with structures and riparian planting.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve applying for funds through ECY Streamflow program, as presented: motion passed.

- b. **Pacific Power STEM Education Grant: Byerley** shared on behalf of Crowley that Pacific Power has a grant and the request is for \$4,915 for riparian planting and water collection.

Motion by Matt Williams and second by Don Schwerin to approve applying for funds through Pacific Powers STEM program, as presented: motion passed.

- c. **Deep Aquifer Well Flow Meter/Dry Creek Flow Meter: Cooper** shared that VSP Capital funding round is accepting applications with an April 15th deadline. This project would be through VSP and cost an estimated 15k for two flow meters.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the VSP application for two Flow meters, as presented: motion passed.

- d. **Mud Creek and BWOL Variable Frequency Drives: Cooper** shared that a second request is being made for the Capital funding deadline of April 15th through VSP for two variable frequency drives at two locations for one landowner. This estimate is based on Smart VFD's for a total cost of 28k.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Matt Williams to approve applying for two VFDs through VSP: motion passed.

- 3. **Discussion about Project Rankings: Cooper and Byerley** shared that WWCCD needs to create a project ranking system for multiple reasons. The first reason would be if there is an influx in project requests but limited funding, the district needs a program that would help determine which project takes priority. The second reason is to make sure we are applying for funds that relate to projects that align with our mission. Cooper shared a rough draft of potential verbiage and ranking system. This is a work in progress and no further discussion was had at this time.

- 4. Request to Approve Submitting the Annual Financial Report to SAO: Freer** shared the Annual Financial Report with the board and is asking for permission to submit to the State Auditors Office.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve submitting the Annual Financial Report to SAO, as presented: motion passed.

- 5. Discuss and Approve Operating Budget Letter to Legislatures: Byerley** shared that WACD created a template letter educating legislatures on the purpose of conservation districts and the impact of the suggested budget cuts and/or increases of particular programs. This letter shares the successes of districts and the importance to local practices.

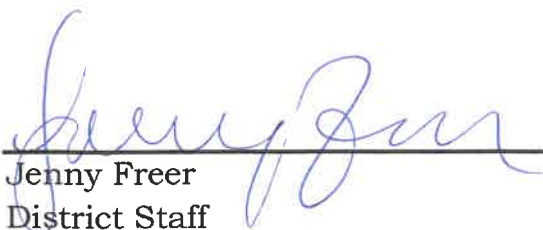
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve sending the education letter to the legislature, as presented: motion passed.

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.) VSP Program Review: Cooper** shared a Power Point Presentation describing the purpose of VSP and the programs history. Cooper showed a timeline of reports processed and the monitoring effects on the county.

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the February 9th meeting minutes as written

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Gothberg
Motion passed

To review the February Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Williams
Motion passed

To approve apply for funds through Streamflow, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve apply for education funds through Pacific Power, as presented

Motion: Williams
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve two flow meters through VSP, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve two VFD's through VSP, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Williams
Motion passed

To approve submitting the Annual Financial Report to SAO, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve letter to legislature, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Williams
Motion passed