



Walla Walla County Conservation District  
December 2025 Board Meeting

Date: December 8, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: In person and Zoom at WWCCD

**Presiding Officer:** Jim Kent, Chair

**Supervisors Present:** Matt Williams (via zoom), Rhonda Gothberg, Don Schwerin

**Supervisors absent:** Jesse McCaw

**Other Agencies:** Tami Stubbs, SCC via zoom; Bryce Krueger, NRCS in person

**Also present:** Jenny Freer, Grace Cooper, Joanna Cowles-Cleveland

**Members of the Public:** None

***The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Jim Kent.***

Kent invited the public to comment. There were none.

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve the November 10<sup>th</sup> board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

**Financial Reports:** The board reviewed the November Financial Reports. **Motion by Rhonda Gothberg and second by Matt Williams to pay the bills, motion passed.**

**As of this date December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the Board reviewed the November financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15276 to 15283 and 8 EFTs, revenues \$96,348.37 and expenses \$116,716.75; total of bank accounts \$395,651.40.**

**(Total Matches Springbrook)**

**New Business:**

- 1. Partner Updates:** **Stubbs, SCC;** expressed gratitude towards WWCCD staff who facilitated a project tour, and recommended a similar tour for Supervisors. Stubbs attended the WACD meeting in Spokane last week. There were many great presentations and some will soon be available as recordings. There will be more to come soon on potential funding sources that don't rely on the state biennium. Bill Blake is a new representative on the Conservation Commission Board. There are also two new SCC staff, including a new point of contact for the Riparian Grant Program (RGP). Updates on the SCC grant manual are ongoing, the group reviewing is currently compiling feedback and they anticipate the update will be ready for the next biennium. WaSHI Dirt Data Tool is now available online. New Post Fire Recovery Needs Survey available, the link is posted on the SCC website. NACD TA Grant deadline has been extended to January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Freer, WWCCD;** shared that Jackie McCool (WDFW) will be taking over as the WDFW representative for the VSP Work Group. Annie Byerley is currently out of town, but will share an update from the WACD meeting when she returns.

**Krueger, NRCS;** shared that batching deadline for EQIP and CSP is January 15<sup>th</sup>, and NRCS staff are working on processing all payments. Staff are also finishing up CRP stand evaluations for expiring contracts to provide information for the landowner to help them decide if they want to re-enroll. Tracy Hanger will be on detail in Oregon for at least 3 months, and Mitchell Ruchert from Pomeroy will be filling in.

2. **Request to approve CREP Maintenance hold down for 2026: Cowles-Cleveland** shared that it has been standard for the last 10 years to discuss and update CREP hold down rates every year in the December board meeting. Updating hold down rates is intended to help WWCCD keep up with increased costs for contractors. For CREP, SCC has an agreement with FSA to help fund maintenance of eligible CREP acres. The SCC has set a standard hold down rate of \$2,700/acre, which is eligible for 5 years. In the past the Board has set their own hold down rates for Walla Walla County per contractor activity. Cowles-Cleveland uses the increase in cost of living as an estimate for increasing hold down rates. Cowles-Cleveland has made some adjustments to hold down rates, particularly for hand labor, but she stated that these estimates are on the conservative side. She noted that by increasing our hold down rates, we may spend that \$2,700/acre faster, but it will allow WWCCD to remain competitive.

**Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve the changes to the CREP Maintenance hold down rates, as presented: motion passed.**

3. **Request to approve Annual Meeting Agenda:** **Freer** shared the final draft for the Annual Meeting Agenda. Key takeaways are that lunch will be catered by Stone Soup, three pesticide credits will be available for attendees, and it will be hosted at the Walla Walla Community College Water and Environment Center (WEC).

**Motion by Matt Williams and second by Rhonda Gothberg to the Annual Meeting Agenda, as presented: motion passed.**

4. **Request to Approve contract with Compass GeoSpatial:** **Cooper** shared that VSP is pursuing an alternative to Mapseed with the company Compass GeoSpatial. Benton and Franklin Counties have already had Compass GeoSpatial set up a monitoring and reporting platform that WWCCD would model theirs after. The contract between WWCCD and Compass GeoSpatial would be for one year and would total \$4,960, which will include app set up in ArcGIS and 12 hours to be used for quarterly maintenance. Funding will be coming out of VSP goods and services and monitoring funds. Contracting Compass GeoSpatial has been approved by the VSP Work Group, but will also need to be approved by SCC.

**Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to contracting Compass GeoSpatial for VSP, as presented: motion passed.**

**Program Updates:**

**A.) Voluntary Stewardship Program Updates:** **Cooper** shared that there are several ongoing VSP projects including Dry Creek Irrigation Improvements and two S. Fork Russell Creek Reseeding projects. One flow meter project has been completed and closed out. WWCCD applied for planting woody stems at one of the S. Fork Russell Creek Reseeding sites on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The next opportunity for VSP capital competitive funds will be in April 2026. Cooper is currently drafting the 10-year report with help from the work group in revising the draft. The final submittal date for the 10-year report is March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**B.) CREP Audit Updates:** **Cowles-Cleveland** shared that prior to the CREP Audit, there were 111 contracts and 2,500 acres of CREP in the county. The most recent update, provided on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, showed that only 35 contracts and 602 acres remain in CREP. Even of these contracts, Cowles-Cleveland suspects some may no longer be enrolled. It is possible in the future that the SCC may be able to make payments for functioning buffers, but that may require field verification.

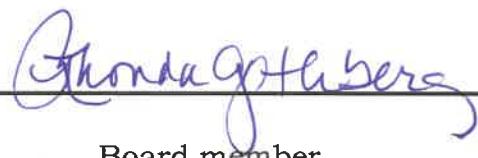
**C.) District Operations:** **Freer** shared key points of the District Operations Report that included an update on Wildhorse funds for outreach materials and a summary of the project tour that Freer and Byerley facilitated for Tami Stubbs, SCC.

**Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 5:14 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Cooper  
District Staff



Board member

**Next meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

## WWCCD November 10, 2025 Board Meeting

### Motions:

To approve the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written

Motion: Schwerin  
Second: Gothberg  
Motion passed

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

Motion: Gothberg  
Second: Williams  
Motion passed

To approve CREP Maintenance hold down for 2026, as presented

Motion: Schwerin  
Second: Gothberg  
Motion passed

To approve Annual Meeting Agenda, as presented

Motion: Williams  
Second: Gothberg  
Motion passed

To approve Contract with Compass GeoSpatial

Motion: Schwerin  
Second: Williams  
Motion passed