



Walla Walla County Conservation District
April 2026 Board Meeting

Date: April 13, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person at USDA

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Chair

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

Supervisors absent: Jesse McCaw

Other Agencies: Tami Stubbs, SCC

Also present: Annie Byerley, Jenny Freer, Joanna Cowles-Cleveland

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

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the March Financial Reports. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date April 9th 2026 the Board reviewed the March financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15338 to 15353 and 9 EFTs, revenues \$140,825.90 and expenses \$117,512.43; total of bank accounts \$323,870.69.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Updates: Byerley, On behalf of NRCS;** R. Foley is leaving the local NRCS office to return to Michigan. J. Jackson has started working for NRCS on behalf of Ducks Unlimited. **Stubbs, SCC;** shared that Riparian Grant Program will be accepting project funding as a mid-biennium opportunity that is due May 8th. The annual plan of work is due by May 30th. The election process is being re-examined by WACD. Omnibuds workgroup is updating the SCC's Grants and Policy manual. **Byerley,** shared that G. Cooper will be leaving WWCCD in June.
- 2. Request to Approve New Projects:**

- a. **Walla Walla Public Schools Foundation: Byerley** shared on behalf of Crowley that WWPSF is offering to sign a Interlocal Agreement for Alisons time to assist in education events for Walla Walla Public Schools.

Motion by Rhonda Gothberg and second by Matt Williams to approve the ILA with Walla Walla Public Schools Foundation for education, as presented: motion passed.

b. VSP Capital Funding Proposed Projects:

- i. **Cottonwood Rd well pump: Byerley/Freer** shared on behalf of Cooper of an increase in well pump horsepower from 3 to 7.5. This would allow for a pasture to be altered into a Christmas tree farm. This project also includes a 0.3 Acre native hedgerow. Total project cost would be \$39k.

After discussion, the board decided not to move forward with this project at this time.

- ii. **Mission Rd Well Flowmeter and VFD: Freer** shared on behalf of Cooper a project on Mission Rd that currently needs a VFD and a flowmeter for 62 acres. This landowner would temporarily donate their water rights from the Walla Walla River. This project would cost \$29k.

Motion by Matt Williams and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve the VSP application for a Flowmeter and VFD, as presented: motion passed.

- iii. **HWY 125 Well Flow Meter: Freer** shared on behalf of Cooper a project for a well flow meter. Currently the land is on a 3 well rotation system for 330 acres. This flow meter would be for the 3rd well. The project would cost \$4,700.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve applying for a Flow Meter through VSP, as presented: motion passed.

- iv. **Stock Water Well Project: Freer** shared on behalf of Cooper a stock water well project for 200 head of cattle. This project would be installing a water well in the canyon closer to the river. Total project cost is \$38k

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve applying for a Stock Water Well, as presented: motion passed.

- c. **Climate Commitment Act Funding through OCR: Byerley** shared that WWCCD has been bookmarked for CCA funds distributed through the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River program for Touchet River Mile 42. This funding is for \$500k to be added to our current project funds.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve the CCA funding for Touchet 42, as presented: motion passed.

3. **Review Annual Plan of Work: Byerley** shared a draft of the Annual Plan of Work with the Board. Byerley will bring the Annual Plan of Work back up next meeting for approval to submit.
4. **Quarterly Review of Lease Agreement: Cowles-Cleveland** shared that \$37 has been put toward our lease at this time. There have been zero requests from NRCS for Cultural Reviews.
5. **Request to Approve Sponsorship of Direct Seed Conference: Byerley** would like WWCCD to be a sponsor of the Direct Seed Conference. This does include a dollar amount that would come from Sustainable Farms & Fields grant. This sponsorship includes branding on materials and attendance for one to the expo.


Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Rhonda Gothberg to approve Direct Seed Conference Sponsorship, 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.) **McDonald/Swegle Projects: Cowles-Cleveland** shared a Power Point Presentation describing the RCO riparian projects; McDonald and Swegle. Maps were shown of the site and what the project entails.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny Freer
District Staff



Board member

Next meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

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| To approve the March 9 th meeting minutes as written | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Gothberg
Motion passed |
| To review the March Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Gothberg
Motion passed |
| To approve Education Partnership with WWPSF, as presented | Motion: Gothberg
Second: Williams
Motion passed |
| To approve applying for VSP Capital funding Cottonwood well pump, as presented | Motion: Gothberg
Second: Schwerin
Motion failed |
| To approve applying for VSP Capital funding Mission Rd well flowmeter, as presented | Motion: Williams
Second: Gothberg
Motion passed |
| To approve applying for VSP Capital funding HWY 125 Well Flowmeter, as presented | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Williams
Motion passed |
| To approve applying for VSP Capital funding Stock Water Well, as presented | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Williams
Motion passed |
| To approve CCA funds from OCR for RM Touchet 42, as presented | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Gothberg
Motion passed |
| To approve Sponsorship of Direct Seed Conference, as presented | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Gothberg |