

Walla Walla County Conservation

District January Board Meeting

Date: Jan. 8, 2018

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Present: Todd Kimball, Ed Chvatal, Jeff Schulke and associate Mike Hagerman

Supervisors Absent: Pat McConnell, Jim Kent

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Lynda Oosterhuis, Audrey Ahmann, and member of the public Leo Pauly

Guest: Jerry Hendrickson, SE Area Representative

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ed Chvatal.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the December minutes. **Motion Todd Kimball and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Report: The board reviewed the January Financial Report. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the January financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

Checks included 13006 to 13042, total all accounts: \$381,948.72

As of this date January 8th, 2018 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the January financial report and further described as follows: Checks 13006 through 13042. Total Accounts Balance: \$381,948.72

New Business:

- 1. NRCS:** Ed Teel reported that the task orders will be revised to show a 75-25% split, with 75% being NRCS funds and 25% state funds through the Commission. Jessica Taylor resigned leaving her position open, which is unlikely to be filled due to hiring restrictions. However, Heather Noel, currently working in N. Dakota for NRCS, may request a transfer to fill the position. Teel also reported that we have fulfilled our lease obligation for 2017. The current task orders do not apply toward the lease and are paid to the district by NRCS.
- 2. Election Update:** Election Supervisor Ahmann reported that the election should be canceled as Todd Kimball is the sole candidate and met all the requirements to be reelected. **It was moved by Jeff Schulke and seconded by Todd Kimball to proceed to inform the voting public that the incumbent, Todd Kimball, has been re-elected to the currently open position by reason of being the only person filing for the position by the deadline and with the required 25 validated signatures and therefore, pursuant to WAC 135-110-370, no poll site, absentee or mail balloting will be performed. Motion carried.**

- 3. Accounts Receivable:** Ahmann reported that there are two remaining landowners with outstanding balances that are long enough overdue to consider writing them off. The first dates from 2003 and involved a landowner unhappy with his projects (screens and meters). There were several attempts to remedy the situation to his satisfaction. The second also involved a landowner dissatisfied with his projects. In this case, the landowner made the first two of three payments, then arrangements were made to transfer unused screens to other projects, with the expectation that the recipients will pay the cost share due on those screens. Not all materials could be salvaged. The first screen has been repurposed and cost share was paid by the new user; the second is available and will be used when WDFW (or the district) finds a suitable site. **Jeff Schulke moved and Todd Kimball seconded to write off both cost share amounts, of 5,412 and 936.50 respectively, motion passed.** It was mentioned that should either landowner wish to participate in another district cost share program, the issue of their previous cost share will be revisited as per district policy.
- 4. Annual Meeting:** Hadley reported that the meeting is planned and moving forward, with a full agenda offering 3 pesticide credits. Ed Chvatal and Jeff Schulke plan to attend.

New Projects for Board Approval

- 1. Meters and Screens:** Oosterhuis referred the board to the list on her report, specifically two more sites for Huesby and a replacement meter for Bergevin. **Todd Kimball moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the projects as described, motion passed.**

Program Updates

- 1. CREP:** Cowles Cleveland reported that the lack of a capital budget is bringing CREP to a standstill. Jensen's project was impacted by the high water event; the 2#PVC water intake pipe for his off-site watering was temporarily protected with fill dirt, but high water then covered the area with cobble. Cowles Cleveland consulted Horning who advised that if they get water at the outlet, they should not attempt digging and inspecting the PVC as doing so would likely damage it. Cowles Cleveland also reported that FSA County Committee approved Kent's project, while Hyland is still working with NRCS to develop a weed control plan. Hendrickson reported that Asotin is in the same position as Walla Walla vis-à-vis CREP and the lack of a capital budget. They had hired additional staff to help with reenrollments and are now seeking work to keep the new hire busy.
- 2. Meters/Screen:** Oosterhuis reported that Hadley's persistence resulted in BPA accepting Ray Tracy's cultural resource reviews so the screen projects can move forward as planned. However, CTUIR has requested additional information and may request that a tribal representative be present during screen construction after they review the report. Two landowners have been very hard to reach despite numerous calls, emails, and letters. The board agreed that if they demonstrate a lack of interest in their projects then

their projects should be canceled. Oosterhuis also reported that of the 41 meters installed in 2017, 23 were for BW-OL. Chvatal reported that the new meters are functioning very well.

3. **VSP:** Hadley reported that 229 outreach letters were sent and landowners are responding. They are encouraged to come in to complete the VSP checklist, documenting the conservation work done and exploring additional conservation options.
4. **Restoration.** Hadley reported that McCaw and the Mill Creek Permanent Fix are still held up pending the passage of the capital budget. As Williams have paid their cost share on their previous project, we are now moving forward on their Ecology funded project. The William's contribution for this project will be in-kind labor; there is no cash match required.
5. **Burn Permits:** Klundt continues with his Wednesday schedule with Stearns assisting. Alfalfa seed growers are baling residue which is reducing the spring burn numbers.

Employee Reports: Hadley plans to attend a meeting in Yakima about the Blalock project.

Joint Agency Meetings


1. **WW Water Management Partnerships:** The regular meeting was uneventful; two water banking agreements were discussed and Ecology came through with funding. The water report was not good with the snowpack at 60% of normal. There was no quorum; the tribes are requesting a 3rd alternate be allowed to facilitate their participation.
2. **SFRFB meeting:** The group began the current grant round with approval of the new scorecard. The pre-application is now required. There was continued discussion of work on the Mill Creek channel.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:

Jerry Hendrickson mentioned that Legislature Days are February 5th and 6th and invited supervisors to attend. The capital budget has not moved but the special session just opened.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Ed Chvatal,
Chairman


Jeff Schulke
Member

Next meeting: February 12, 2018

Motions:

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| To approve the December minutes as written: | Motion: Kimball
Second: Schulke
Motion passed |
| To approve the January Financial report: | Motion: Kimball
Second: Schulke
Motion passed |
| To cancel the election and inform the voting public that the incumbent had been re-elected: | Motion: Schulke
Second: Kimball
Motion passed |
| To write off uncollected cost-share as described, | Motion: Schulke
Second: Kimball
Motion passed |
| To approve 2 more meter projects for Huesby and another one for Tom Bergevin, | Motion: Kimball
Second: Schulke
Motion passed |