

# Walla Walla County Conservation

## District Dec. Board Meeting

Date: December 11, 2017

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

**Presiding Officer:** Ed Chvatal

**Supervisors Present:** Jim Kent, Jeff Schulke, Todd Kimball, Associate Mike Hagerman

**Supervisors Absent:** Pat McConnell

**Representatives of Other Agencies:** Ed Teel, NRCS; Sean Taylor, WDFW

**Also present:** Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Lynda Oosterhuis, and Audrey Ahmann, WWCCD; and members of the public: Annie Byerley, Nick Plucker, Leo Pauling

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

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the November minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Todd Kimball to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 12974 to 13005, total all accounts: \$450,989.86

**As of this date December 11th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the December financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12974 through 13005 Total Accounts Balance: \$450,989.86**

**Introductions:** The board welcomed guests Leo Pauling, Nick Plucker, and Annie Byerley.

### **New Business:**

- 1. NRCS Task Orders** We have three task orders in place with NRCS. The District will do CRP checks on about 25% of the contracts up for renewal in the coming year. The CSP task order involves a file check and then a field visit, while the CTA planning will involve file maintenance, field checks, and reviewing resource concerns with landowners. Once we are in the system it is easier to initiate new orders. This work is in addition to the rent obligation which we have almost met for the year so NRCS will pay us for work completed.
- 2. Annual Meeting Agenda** After reviewing the agenda, **Jim Kent moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the Annual Meeting agenda as presented, motion passed.**
- 3. BW-OL/Lowden 2,** There are problems with the two diversions. The diversions are in close proximity to each other; rock settling and clearing debris are a continual issue. Gardena Farms Irr. Dist. is considering requesting BPA assistance in obtaining a rotary screen. Taylor pointed out there are several solutions (barrel screen, belt screen) but all require modifications to the current structure. L2-Garden City build the original bladder dam with financial assistance from BPA. The landowners of the irrigation districts are open to ideas. This information may be relevant at a later date; no action was taken.

- 4. FSA County Committee Decisions** County Committee did not approve Hyland's project after his appeal. At issue is extreme weed pressure in a very arid site that is considered to have a high possibility of planting failure. One concern is that both the extensive site prep and installation can't be completed in the 36 month window for CRP installations. It is also likely to be considerably more expensive than a typical CREP project. The district has no official role until FSA approves the contract although Cowles Cleveland is providing Hyland with some guidance and he is working with Ed Teel.

### **New Projects:**

- 1. Screen and meter projects:** Tim DeRuwe, Cora Edwards, Ed Chvatal and Joel Huesby projects were described. Huesby has 6 (4 wells, 2 surface) and Chvatal has 2 wells, DeRuwe has a well and Edwards is up for two replacement meters. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve these projects, motions passed with Chvatal abstaining.**
- 2. Mud Creek Reed Canary Grass** Cowles Cleveland reported that Weavers are planning a CREP wetland project. FSA does not have an approved list of wetland plants (and can't cost share them) so the landowner would like to use Nonshellfish funds (now known as Natural Resource Investment funds) to start the site prep for the wetland part. The long term goal is to enroll in CREP. The project is paired with O'Bryan's site, again, to seed native wetland plants to compete with the current invasives. Additional work involves reshaping the channel using WDFW assistance. Ray Ledgerwood suggested applying for NRI funds under one landowner, making it a one mile project. The project will include livestock exclusion fencing. **Jeff Schulke moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve using Natural Resource Investment funds for the Weaver-O'Brian Mud Creek riparian-wetland project; motion passed.**

### **Program Updates**

- 1. CREP:** Five projects are being installed; Dunham, Small, and Casey are doing the work. The funds for Jensen were extended to January but Jensen is completing the work this month. The Reser project is delayed but moving forward now; the landowner is planting more riparian plants than required. Other projects are planned but held up by lack of the capital budget.
- 2. Meters, Screens:** Six projects are going through the final design. People continue to come in for meters. About 75% are replacement meters. Screens are at a stop pending the BPA cultural resource process. Kinsinger added that Oosterhuis is doing a great job on these.
- 3. Burn:** Hadley went over Klundt's report.
- 4. VSP:** Hadley reported that VSP will now be updated quarterly and the Work Group will meet annually. The state technical panel would not approve the plan without a targeted outreach plan. As a result, under VSP, we will be sending a letter to a selected group of landowners.

The letter was discussed. **Todd Kimball moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the draft VSP letter for landowners provided it be on county letterhead, motion passed.**

- 5. Education Outreach:** Hadley mentioned that under CAPP guidelines we should solicit public input on our annual plan of work and long range plan. She will be making this part of the district presentation at our annual meeting.

**Employee Reports:** Employee reports were provided to the board prior to the meeting.

## **Joint Agency Meetings**

- 1. WACD Meeting:** Schulke reported that there was a lot of discussion of the inability of the legislature to deal with the Hirst and Foster decisions. He was not confident of a quick resolution. Foster is related to allowing ag users to sell water rights to municipal entities. Gov. Inslee suggests allowing individual WRIs to deal with the issues raised by the Hirst decision. Cultural Resources continue to be an issue. The tribes report that lack of federal funds causes their delayed response to CR inquiries.
- 2. WW Water Management Partnership:** Chvatal reported they reviewed a letter to the Oregon Department of Resources in support of the process to protect flows that cross state boundaries. The letter was postponed until after the next meeting.
- 3. SFRFB meeting:** Cowles Cleveland is attending the meeting Dec. 12 where the group will be starting the next round of funding. The hope is that the new scorecard rankings will align with the projects chosen for funding.

## **Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:**

Hadley noted that all four of the recipients of Ecology letters related to water quality concerns are working with the District.

Greg Kinsinger expressed his gratitude for the board's support over the years, and board members in turn recognized Greg for his outstanding work on behalf of district landowners.

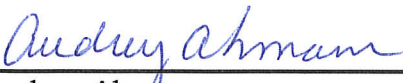
Nick Plucker expressed his concern that after a district-funded project to remove false indigo, the areas were not replanted, and raised the issue of follow-through on projects when funding is limited or grants end.

**Executive Session:** At 6:15, the board of supervisors and district manager withdrew to review the performance of an employee per RCW 42.30.110(g). The board concluded the executive session and returned to regular session at 6:25.

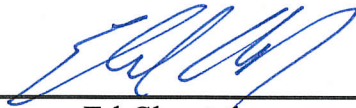
**Voluntary Leave:** The board reviewed a draft letter to staff regarding voluntary leave without pay; no action was taken as the letter is in accord with existing policy.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:25 without a formal motion.**

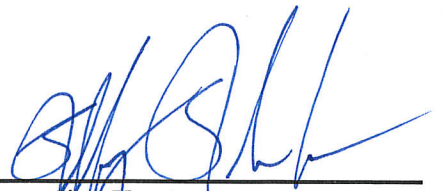
Respectfully submitted



Audrey Ahmann  
Assistant Manager, Finance



Ed Chvatal,  
Chairman



Jim Kent  
Member

Next meeting: January 8, 2017

Motions:

To approve the November minutes as written:	Motion: Kimball, Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the December Financial Report	Motion: Kent, Second: Kimball Motion passed
To approve meter and screen projects as described,	Motion: Schulke, Second: Kent Motion passed with Chvatal abstaining
To approve using Natural Resource Investment funds for the Weaver-O'Brian Mud Creek riparian-wetland project,	Motion: Schulke, Second: Kimball Motion passed
To approve the draft VSP letter for landowners provided it be on county letterhead, motion passed	Motion: Schulke, Second: Kimball Motion passed