

Walla Walla County Conservation

District Sept. Board Meeting

Date: Sept 11, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Ed Chvatal, Todd Kimball

Supervisors Absent: Associate Mike Hagerman, Pat McConnell, Jeff Schulke

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS; Allen Casey, NRCS Plant Materials Center; Jason Bulay, Blue Mountain Land Trust, Ray Ledgerwood, Regional Manager SCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Joanna Cowles, Lynda Oosterhuis, and Audrey Ahmann, WWCCD; Annie Byerley, Ag. Community.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ed Chvatal.

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

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

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

Checks included 12859 to 12887, total all accounts: \$352,202.95

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

Checks included 12888 to 12917, total all accounts: \$390,516.88

As of this date September 11, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the August financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12859 through 12887 Total Accounts Balance: \$352,202.95

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Introductions: The board welcomed guests Annie Byerley, Jason Bulay, and Allen Casey.

New Business:

1. **NRCS Cover Crops:** Allen Casey, NRCS, described the cover crop study being done by the Plant Materials Center. This is a 5-year study underway in the Palouse. A trial is planned in our county on dryland in the 13" rainfall area. There will be 176 plots studied to determine

what will sprout and survive winter, to record blooming date, and measure plant growth. Cover crops are included in NRCS cost-sharing programs to address erosion and soil fertility.

2. **Blue Mountain Land Trust:** Jason Bulay presented information on the Trust which serves the entire Blue Mountain Region and is based in Walla Walla. They have facilitated 12 Conservation Easements protecting 4,000 acres. Their mission is to preserve working lands. They have an active outreach program called Learning on the Land and are funded by grants, private donations and foundations. They are currently seeking ways to connect with farmers preserve their land.
3. **CAPP.** Ray Ledgerwood explained the new Conservation Accountability and Performance Program which is intended to help districts self-evaluate and improve performance. Fourteen accountability standards are listed first and are required by the RCW. Deficiencies in these 14 could impact Commission funding for districts. The remainder were developed as best practices from observations of outstanding districts. Ray asked the board to evaluate these and give feedback in time for the WACD meeting in November. Ray observed that the presentation earlier in the meeting on cover crops shows our meeting standard 6: Research and Technology Integrated. The board agreed to review the standards over the next 2 meetings.

Program Updates

1. **Screens/Meters:** Kinsinger reported that the BW-OL meter replacement projects are almost complete. The new meters are more robust and should handle local temperature extremes better. The district will be advertising the program soon.
2. **Burn permits:** Klundt's report shows 23 permits for 12,532 acres to date.
3. **CREP:** Enrollments are moving along and Joanna is helping FSA quite a bit. Some landowners have not been responsive despite repeated attempts to reach them via phone and mail. Joanna has worked with contractors to ensure they understand the limitations wrought by the capital budget impasse. Ray suggested that legislators be informed about project delays and that good conservation work is at risk. Kelley Betts let Renee know how much FSA appreciates Joanna's assistance. Ray reported that Spokane CD is working on a project funding "working buffers". Under the program, cooperating landowners are reimbursed for the difference in earnings on land formerly cropped that is now used for grazing or hay production.
4. **VSP.** Renee Hadley reported that the VSP Work Plan has been submitted for formal review. We are allowed to make changes in response to reviewers. Hadley will be going to Olympia at the end of the month to present the plan. She previewed her presentation on our plan with the board.

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

Joint Agency Meetings

1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities

Partnership Board: Chvatal reported that the board is almost at an impasse with the CTUIR. Insufficient flows are the main issue. CTUIR would like a stronger voice on the Partnership but their vote is set by statute and cannot be changed locally. Protection of trusted water is a continual issue.

- 2. SFRFB meeting:** Changes in staff led to the addition of an education component to our contract. However, the contract is held up in the capital budget impasse. The group has set up a committee to discuss funding caps and how to apply them, primarily in response to large more costly projects that result in fewer projects being funded.

New Business Resumed:



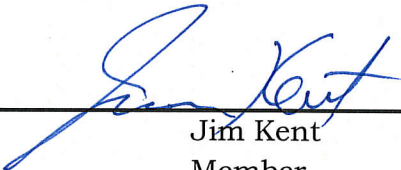
The board returned to the CAPP program and discussed the first 10 Performance Standards. Renee felt we met all except number 7 (Public and Stakeholders Input in Program and Plan Development) and thought more public outreach would improve the development of the annual and long-range plans. The board agreed.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted

		
Audrey Ahmann	Ed Chvatal,	Jim Kent
Assistant Manager, Finance	Chairman	Member

Next meeting: **October 16, 2017**

Motions:

To approve the July minutes as written:

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To approve the August Special Meeting minutes:

Motion: Todd Kimball, Second: Jim Kent
Motion passed

To approve the August Financial Report:

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To approve the September Financial Report:

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed