

Walla Walla County Conservation

District April Board Meeting

Date: April 10, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Jeff Schulke, Ed Chvatal (via phone)

Supervisors Absent: Todd Kimball, Rick Jones, Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Joanna Cowles, Lynda Oosterhuis, and Audrey Ahmann.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jim Kent

Minutes: The Board reviewed the March minutes. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Ed Chvatal to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Report: The board reviewed the April Financial Report. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Ed Chvatal to approve the April financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.** Checks included 12705 to 12730, total all accounts: \$365,288.33

As of this date April 10th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the April financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12705 through 12730 Total Accounts Balance: \$365,288.33

New Business:

- 1. NRCS Cultural Resources:** Ed Teel reported that having the District facilitate cultural resource reviews has been really beneficial for producers working with NRCS. Some landowners are making last minute changes to their projects, likely unaware that any design deviations require a new cultural resource review. The board agreed that while it is reasonable for the District to provide a cultural resource review, if landowners decide to alter the plans, the landowner should pay for the second review. **Jeff Schulke moved and Ed Chvatal seconded that for all future projects, the District will pay for the first cultural resource review, and if the landowner makes changes that require a second review, the landowner will be responsible for that cost. Motion passed.** The board also asked that project planners make this policy very clear to producers early in the process.
- 2. Update on Lease:** Cowles presented the office lease agreement totals for the first quarter and reported we are making good progress.
- 3. Annual Plan of Work:** Hadley had sent the draft Annual Plan of Work to the board for review and comment. Chvatal complimented her on the work. **Ed Chvatal moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the APW as presented, motion passed.**
- 4. Commission Funds:** Hadley reported that the Commission requested a breakdown of how we used our Implementation funds and shared this with the board.
- 5. Sole Source Designation:** In seeking vendors for digging the livestock water well on the Pat Jensen project, Hadley found only one company capable of drilling through basalt. **Jeff Schulke moved**

and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve designating 5-Star Well drilling company a sole source contractor for the project, motion passed.

- 6. Request to hire an intern:** Hadley was advised to consider hiring an intern and has come to agree; she asked about current seasonal employee pay. The board advised that \$15.00/hour is becoming standard for those 18 and over.
- 7. Internal Audit:** Ahmann expects to be ready to conduct the internal audit after April 20th; Kimball and Kent will form the audit committee.
- 8. WCC staff change:** Hadley reported that our regional manager, Jess Davenport, is resigning her position to pursue ranching. No word yet on Commission plans as regards hiring.
- 9. Stream habitat degradation and other flood damage:** The governor declared our area a natural disaster due to extreme weather (flooding) in March. (The declaration is limited to that time frame.) Hadley prepared a disaster report of 25 projects for a total of 1.3 million based primarily on the cost of addressing in-stream habitat damage. However, the state declined to consider the request projects because they believe NRCS has programs to cover the costs. Hadley explained that NRCS does *not have* funds for this kind of work locally, and further, numerous landowners facing damage are not ag producers and not eligible for NRCS funding anyway, to no avail. Hadley will continue to develop the project list and pursue funding sources.

New Projects for Board Approval

- 1. Meters:** Tom Bergevin is requesting specifying Seametrics meters for his systems (6 meters). This is a landowner decision; they can chose a Seametrics meters or a different one. If a landowner decides to request a Seametrics meter despite their history, Hadley will have the landowner initial language to that effect either in a memo or on the landowner agreement. (No board motion needed.)

Program Updates

- 1. Screens/Meters:** The BWOL meters need replacing but not all landowners are looking for district assistance. Kinsinger has spoken with 4 BWOL landowners. Batteries continue to be a problem for the older meters.
- 2. CREP:** Cowles gave an update on the burned CREP for Gradwohl and Dunham. Elderberries and chokecherries are sprouting from the shrub base; areas with strong regrowth will not be replanted. The plan is to tarp and place trees and shrubs where the grass was and vice-versa. The stumps are being removed to less than 4" height, allowing for mowing over the top. The replanted trees/shrubs are going to include more variety such as sage and salt-brush and not be so dense with pines.
- 3. VSP:** Hadley's presentation to the Commissioners went well.

Joint Agency Meetings

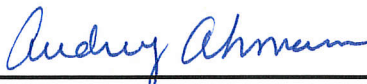
- 1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities**
 - a. Partnership Board:** Chris Hyland has hired Sam Chapman to assist.

- 2. SFRFB meeting:** Cowles reported that instead of the drastic cut our region was facing, we were cut about 80,000 or 5%. The state board decided to begin the funds distribution process with a 5% across the board cut, then make some modifications within that starting point. There is a concern that the Pacific Salmon fund that accounts for 1.5 million to the state RCO may be zeroed out at the federal level.


Public Comment Period: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Jim Kent, acting
Chairman


Jeff Schulke
Member

Next meeting: May 8, 2017

Motions:

To approve the March minutes as written:

Motion: Jeff Schulke
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

To approve the April Financial report:

Motion: Jeff Schulke
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

That for all future projects, the District will pay for the first cultural resource review, and if the landowner makes changes that require a second review, the landowner will be responsible for that cost:

Motion: Jeff Schulke
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

To adopt the Annual Plan of Work as presented:

Motion: Ed Chvatal
Second: Jeff Schulke
Motion passed

To approve designating 5-Star Well drilling company a sole source contractor for the project:

Motion: Jeff Schulke
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed