

Walla Walla County Conservation

District Jan. Board Meeting

Date: Jan. 9, 2017 Time: 4:00 p.m. Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Todd Kimball, Ed Chvatal, Associate Mike Hagerman

Supervisors Absent: Pat McConnell

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Jeff Schulke, Nick Plucker, Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Joanna Cowles, Jeff Klundt and Audrey Ahmann.

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

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

Financial Report: The board reviewed the January Financial Report. **Motion by Ed Chvatal and second by Jim Kent to approve the January financial reports and pay the bills, motion carried.**

Checks included 12616 to 12643 total all accounts: \$393,705.12

As of this date January 9th 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the January financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12616 through 12643 Total Accounts Balance: \$393,705.12

New Business:

- 1. NRCS News:** Greg Schlentz of the Dayton office is retiring and Gabby has accepted a promotion to the Mt. Vernon office.
- 2. Update on NRCS Lease:** Joanna reported that though we accomplished all tasks as requested by NRCS, we did not meet the lease agreement amount of 37,240. NRCS is unable to process payments from us so there is no additional payment required. However, there are multiple projects in line for 2017 and it is likely that we will meet the 37,240 goal in the coming year.
- 3. Vacancy on SRFBoard:** The LE Committee has two voting citizen representative positions. Larry Hooker is currently filling one but the other is vacant. Three names were suggested and Renee will follow up with each.
- 4. Annual Meeting Agenda:** Jeff Klundt said all is proceeding as expected.
- 5. Election:** Audrey attempted to explain the current problem that arose when the city annexed Jeff Schulke's property. Since his residence is no longer in district boundaries, he is not eligible for his elected position. At the December meeting Pat McConnell agreed to run for Jeff's position as a write-in candidate. This makes Pat ineligible to continue as an appointed supervisor. Audrey will start the process for the Commission to appoint someone to Pat's position at their March meeting. At the May meeting, the Commission will confirm the election and at that point the district will be back to its full contingent of 5 supervisors. If it helps, the Board has the authority to appoint someone to fill out the remainder of Jeff's elected position. Any appointee must be eligible to be an elected supervisor. In the normal rotation, Ed Chvatal is now the Board Chairman. Audrey circulated a new signature authority form for the Commission.

New Projects for Board Approval

1. **Screens Revisited: Byerley (SCC non-shellfish funds)** Renee Hadley and Greg Kinsinger led discussion on the Byerley screen combination project and the potential to use non-shellfish funds from the State Conservation Commission. This is currently a diversion from Cottonwood Creek into an irrigation pond with a non-compliant screen. A hydraulic permit from WDFW is required every year to clear buildup from the pond. The pond is also at a lower elevation than Cottonwood Creek, making the bypass ineffective when water levels are low and potentially stranding steelhead and other fish. The proposed project would involve the installation of a compliant screen, a trash rack on the diversion, and an updated outflow on the pond. Lance will draw up a conceptual design for the bypass. If using non-shellfish funds the project will need to be complete by the end of the biennium on June 30. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Jim Kent to approve the project pending Lance's designs. Motion passed.**

Program Updates

1. **Screens/Meters:** All funds from the RCO screen grant will be used with several small projects left unfunded. Kay Caromile indicated she may be able to get more funding to complete the last few projects. The landowners are already committed and have signed agreements. Funding for meters is secure for another 1½ years.
2. **VSP:** Brian Mahoney from Anderson Perry will be moving to another position at the end of the month. He has been putting together the work plan document and coordinating revisions. His goal is to finish approximately 75% of the work plan draft by the end of January. The contract with Anderson Perry goes through June and they will likely fill Brian's position in-house. Renee would like to have a draft 90% complete by the end of their contract.
3. **CREP:** The remaining CREP contracts on non-CREP eligible streams have been identified in the county and the information passed on to Brian Cochrane with the Conservation Commission. He will present the information at the State Conservation Commission meeting on Jan. 18-19 and they will be voting to approve the designation of CREP eligibility on the proposed stream segments. We reached out to WDFW and CTUIR for their concurrence on the fish benefit of these additions, but have not yet received their statements.
Funding for tree removal on the two contracts destroyed by the Dry Creek Fire is available but the landowners are weighing their options. Cutting the trees by chainsaw and then chipping/hauling the wood is expensive but will likely do less damage to the ground. Using a track hoe with a masticator attachment is faster and much less expansive, but has the potential to scatter chips and potentially do more damage to the ground. One landowner in particular is uncertain about using a masticator and indicated that he may do the work himself. Todd Kimball is willing to talk to him. Both landowners are aware of funding and time constraints and have indicated that they will make a decision no later than the beginning of March.
4. **OCR Bi-State Flow enhancement study:** Renee attended a meeting on December 14 in which they discussed project pairing to achieve more cfs for baseline flow in the Walla Walla River. There are several options for project pairing that have the potential of reaching the 45 cfs goal. More detailed information on the amount of cfs saved and cost of each project is being put together and will be sent out on January 20. Representatives will discuss the options with their respective agencies and come back with an agency vote on February 9. Renee will send out the information she receives to the board members and get their input before that date.

Joint Agency Meetings

1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities

- a. **Partnership Board:** The partnership is looking for a new program director to cover tasks that Chris Hyland does not have time to complete. They are also working on securing funds for the next biennium. Tribal representatives have not attended the last two meetings, but indicated they are still willing to provide support if they can get more flow.
- b. **Water Resources Panel:** Greta Hassler has requested to move a water remnant from the ground currently enrolled in CREP across the road to the land farmed by Scott Byerley. The water resource panel agreed with the change but will wait until they have tribal input before sending it to the board for approval.

2. Office of Columbia River: see program updates.

Misc. Discussion on RUSLE: Joanna and Lynda discussed the process of inputting information into the RUSLE2 software and indicated that it would be useful to have general information on the implements and timing of practices for crops they are unfamiliar with. Mike Hagerman stressed the importance of using accurate information for each producer, as equipment and timing vary substantially. This was acknowledged and Jeff Schulke indicated his willingness to provide general information that could serve as a starting point for more detailed input from individual producers.

Public Comment Period: There were no public comments.


Board members entered an executive session at 6:05pm and stated they would come out of executive session at approximately 6:25. The purpose of the executive session was to review negotiations on the performance of contracts per RCW 42.30.110(d). The board came out of executive session at 6:20.

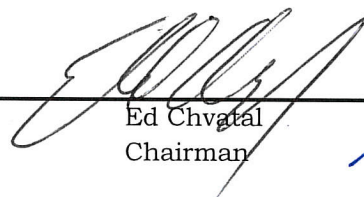
Employee Reports:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Ed Chvatal
Chairman


Jim Kent
Treasurer

Next meeting: February 13, 2017

Motions:

To approve the Dec. minutes as written:	Motion: T. Kimball Second: J. Kent Motion passed
To approve the January Financial report:	Motion: E. Chvatal Second: J. Kent Motion passed
To approve the Byerley scene project pending the engineer's report	Motion: T. Kimball Second: J. Kent Motion passed