

Walla Walla County Conservation

District May Board Meeting

Date: May 8, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Todd Kimball, Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Absent: 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 April minutes. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Ed Chvatal to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 12732 to 12765, total all accounts: \$308,812.42

As of this date May 8th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the May financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12732 through 12765 Total Accounts Balance: \$308,812.42

New Business:

- 1. NRCS CREP:** Ed Teel reported that Kelley Betts of FSA requested a joint NRCS, County Committee and CD supervisor meeting to discuss matters related to the CREP program. The board agreed that Jeff Schulke (absent) had the most familiarity with CREP and should attend the meeting; if he is unable, Todd Kimball volunteered to go.
- 2. Approve Annual Financial Report:** The board members were given a copy of the report and the audit committee recommended the board approve it. **Todd Kimball moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve the report as presented, motion passed.**
- 3. Approve Action Plan:** Hadley sent the draft Action Plan developed by the audit committee to the board for review prior to the meeting. **Todd Kimball moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve the Action Plan as presented, motion passed.**
- 4. ECY Letters:** Hadley reported that Ecology sent a compliance letter to a producer near the 9-Mile Ranch. They also sent follow-up letters to landowners previously contacted. Of the original four recipients of letters, three have contacted the District. An area of concern is a lack of specifics in Ecology communications. Landowners would like some assurance that their efforts to address water quality issues will satisfy Ecology.

- project in July. The plan is to use existing funds to start the permitting process so that work can begin as soon as project funds become available.
- c. The US Army Corps of Engineers is exerting their jurisdiction on all projects, including small ones. The predicted timeline is 6 months to determine if a permit is required and an additional 6 months to 1.5 years to obtain a permit. State agencies are given a maximum of 45 days to respond, but the Corps is Federal and not constrained by any timeline.
5. **VSP:** Anderson Perry will be wrapping up their involvement with VSP by the end of their contract in June. The monitoring component of the work plan is still in progress but should be nearly complete by the time Anderson Perry phases out. Renee is working on potential incentives for landowners and will meet with the County in the upcoming weeks regarding open space designation. The VSP Work Group meets at 1:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.
6. **Education/Outreach:** Renee participated in the Farm Days at the High School as well as the Blue Mountain Land Trust CREP Tour. Twelve people attended the tour of Jeff Schulke's CREP and nearby CRP ground. Upcoming outreach events include the Tri-State Steelheaders Crab Feed on May 18th, a forestry tour in Dayton with Lisa Naylor, and the WSU grain tour on June 1.

Joint Agency Meetings

1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities

Partnership Board: Funding for the Partnership is still uncertain; it is funded in the house budget but not the senate version. A miscommunication about meeting time resulted in fewer attendees at the last meeting. Kimball commented that 19,000 acre-feet (6 billion gallons) of water has been put in the water bank, but Chvatal said the last meeting included ongoing discussion on the effectiveness of water banking and whether it was "wet water". He also mentioned the difficulty of getting landowners involved in water plans and banking projects as funding may not be available after the pilot project, which is complete in 2019. Two year biennium funding cycles have also been an issue throughout the process, with a lot of time spent securing funds for the next biennium. Kinsinger reported Gardena has a new water plan and will meet with the panel before the next board meeting.

2. **SFRFB meeting:** Cowles reported that all three budgets (house, senate, governor) have SRFB funded at 20 million. The Pacific Salmon Fund, which funds most of the RCO Salmon Recovery grants, totals 65,000,000 for all involved states and is at risk for zeroing out at the federal level.

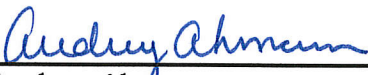
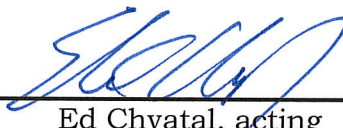

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: Several staff members will be attending WADE June 12-14, so the next board meeting time will need to be changed. The board agreed to hold a Special Meeting Wednesday, June 7.

Hadley also noted that staff members have been having difficulty connecting to the office wifi. A computer company was hired to work on the issue and will be installing additional wifi points throughout the building to resolve the problem.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted

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

Next meeting: June 7, 2017

Motions:

To approve the April minutes as written:

Motion: Todd Kimball
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

To approve the May Financial report:

Motion: Ed Chvatal
Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To approve the Annual Financial Report:

Motion: Todd Kimball
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

To approve the Action Plan

Motion: Todd Kimball
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed

To approve the meter projects as presented:

Motion: Todd Kimball
Second: Ed Chvatal
Motion passed