

Walla Walla County Conservation

District Oct. Board Meeting

Date: October 16, 2017 Time: 5:00 p.m. Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Pat McConnell, Todd Kimball, Jeff Schulke

Supervisors Absent: Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Lynda Oosterhuis, James Baker, 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 September minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Todd Kimball to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 12918 to 12949, total all accounts: \$401,525.18

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| <p>As of this date October 16th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the October financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12918 through 12949 Total Accounts Balance: \$401,525.18</p> |
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Introductions: The board welcomed guests Annie Byerley and James Baker. James is an intern from the Community College. James introduced himself as a Watershed Ecology student, hired for the soils testing being done under the Soils Health Grant.

New Business:

- 1. NRCS EQIP:** Ed Teel informed the board that while local EQIP funds continue to be reduced, growers can add the AgEMP program which includes an energy audit to identify energy saving practices. Applying adds about a year to the planning for EQIP but there are more funds. The energy audit is performed by a local service provider (Fred Bosper) and the analysis is fully cost shared.
- 2. Office Lease Summary:** The handouts show that while we are slightly behind in meeting the third quarter goal, if the work outstanding is completed (see list in meeting materials) we will exceed our lease obligation. Teel stated that any excess will be carried forward to the 2018 lease obligation.
- 3. SIMPLE retirement plan:** The District agreed to a 2% contribution to staff wages as outlined in the SIMPLE IRA paperwork for 2017. The agreement must be renewed each year. **Pat**

McConnell moved and Todd Kimball seconded to continue the 2% contribution level in 2018, motion passed.

4. **SE Area Meeting:** The meeting will be in Dayton on October 24th from 8:30 to 4:00. Board members Ed Chvatal, Pat McConnell, and Todd Kimball agreed to attend.
5. **WW Management Partnership appointment:** Ed Chvatal represents both Columbia and Walla Walla County Conservation Districts on this board. **After discussion, Pat McConnell moved and Todd Kimball seconded to reappoint Ed Chvatal for another term, provided Columbia CD agrees. Motion passed.**
6. **Elections/Appointments:** Todd Kimball and Ed Chvatal's supervisor positions are up for election and appointment (respectively) in 2018. Both generously agreed to continue in their offices (assuming they are elected/appointed).
7. **CAPP guidelines:** The board reviewed the next 10 CAPP performance standards. These were reviewed and the board decided to review them in depth at the November meeting. The District governance document was also reviewed; the board postponed action until November.
8. **Wage for screens:** Hadley and Ahmann explained that the new BPA contract has language that seems to state that for certain job categories, most notably civil engineering technicians (Lisa Stearns), payment is set at a defined level with benefits dictated by the contract. (See Ahmann board report and meeting materials.) While board members expressed frustration at the overreach of BPA dictating wages, the increase amounts to about 200.00, much less than consulting an employment lawyer. **Pat McConnell moved and Jim Kent seconded to pay Lisa Stearns at the higher rate of 20.66 for the hours worked on the BPA contract only, motion passed.** **RFP for Screens:** The budget on the BPA screen grant was set in April but the bid that came in is significantly (approx. 50%) higher. The design has changed. Hadley will request an increased budget. The RFP was based on conceptual designs and actual screen costs may be lower than the bid. Hadley and Kinsinger will work on the issue to ensure all costs are covered by the grant. **Contract for McCaw:** Royce requested the district sign the McCaw contract so he can stockpile supplies, but in the absence of the state capital budget, the board declined as it is a risk, in the current climate, the district cannot afford to take. **NACD dues:** The board had no objection to paying the usual NACD dues.
9. **Review of MOU List:** The board reviewed the list as presented in the meeting materials. Kimball noted that Clallam was no longer in effect and Ahmann explained we would get a new contract should they need engineering services again.

Program Updates

1. **State Audit:** Ahmann reported that the audit is complete and the auditor said informally there were no issues of concern. The focus was on payroll, professional service contracts, and cost share. An exit conference will be scheduled.

2. **Meters:** Klundt described two new meter projects for approval: Galan Tom and Chris Kregger. **Jim Kent moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the Galan Tom and Kregger meter projects, motion passed.** Joel Huesby is planning 8 new meter projects. Kinsinger said there might be one more BW-OL meter project and reported that the new McCrometers are working well with no complaints.
3. **REP:** Hadley reported a grant application for CREP-type projects on non-CREP eligible streams was submitted to Ecology; if approved it would also provide maintenance funds on buffers installed through the previous Ecology CREP grant.
4. **VSP.** Renee Hadley reported that the reviewers approved of some portions of the submitted Work Plan but not on all. Additional comments were received Friday. Some comments were focused on perceived weaknesses (e.g. Ecology wants to see the plan focus on aquifer water quality as well as quantity). Staff will work to address the concerns raised and Hadley will attend the meeting on the 27th for the final review.
5. **Soil Health Grant:** Hadley reported all soil samples are recorded by neighborhood, not by landowner, to protect landowner privacy. The information will be going to the soil health committee.

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 again that the board is close to an impasse with the CTUIR. Insufficient flows, refusal to acknowledge the progress made, and a recalcitrant attitude in general are the main issues.

2. **SFRFB meeting:** The group set up funding caps because of frustration over ambitious, costly projects that take sustained multi-year efforts.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted



Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance



Ed Chvatal,
Chairman



Jim Kent
Member

Next meeting: November 13, 2017

Motions:

To approve the September minutes as written:

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To approve the October Financial Report

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Pat McConnell
Motion passed

To continue the District's 2% contribution to employee SIMPLE IRA accounts,

Motion: Pat McConnell, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To continue Ed Chvatal's appointment representing Walla Walla and Columbia County on the WW Watershed Management Partnership Board, should Columbia County concur,

Motion: Pat McConnell, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed

To pay Lisa Stearns at the higher rate of 20.66 for the hours worked on the BPA contract only,

Motion: Pat McConnell, Second: Jim Kent
Motion passed

To approve the G. Tom and Kregger meter projects,

Motion: Jim Kent, Second: Todd Kimball
Motion passed