

# Walla Walla County Conservation

## District February Board Meeting

Date: February 12, 2018

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

**Presiding Officer:** Ed Chvatal

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

**Supervisors Absent:** associate Mike Hagerman

**Representatives of Other Agencies:** Ed Teel, NRCS

**Also present:** Renee Hadley, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Lynda Oosterhuis, Audrey Ahmann, and members of the public Leo Pauly and Annie Byerley

**Guest:** Martin Quinn, Dept. of Ecology; Lindsey Williams, Walla Walla Community College

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

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the January minutes. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Todd Kimball to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 13043 to 13074, total all accounts: \$397,932.49

**As of this date February 12<sup>h</sup>, 2018 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the February financial report and further described as follows: Checks 13043 through 13074. Total Accounts Balance: \$397,932.49**

### **New Business:**

- 1. CREP Maintenance discussion:** The board discussed a maintenance invoice and whether the work performed was an eligible expense under the program. The activity was listed on a maintenance hold down list from 2008 which was likely still in effect when the CREP contract was signed, but the activity was not on the 2017 hold down list. After discussion, **Pat McConnell moved to pay the bill. Jeff Schulke suggested an amendment that payment be accompanied by a letter explaining the importance of using current maintenance hold down sheets and consulting with district staff prior to incurring costs. Todd Kimball seconded the motion as amended, motion passed 3-2.** Martin Quinn is working with Ecology to secure additional maintenance funds because all parties want the project at this marginal site to be successful, but he thinks additional funding will be hard to obtain.
- 2. Addendums for Natural Resource Investment funds:** Ahmann read the addendums: Addendum 1: Design, obtain permits, coordinate with the landowner and administer cost share to install the McCaw Phase B stream restoration project, total funds 62,500, and Addendum 2: Design, obtain permits, coordinate with the landowner and administer cost share to install the Mill Creek Streambank and Shoreline protection project, total funds 46,875. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the addendums as read, motion passed.**

- 3. Reminder of Appointed Position** The board was reminded that the position currently held by Ed Chvatal is open for applications. Ed has generously agreed to reapply.
- 4. Rotation of the board:** In accord with board policy, rotation of the board will be done in June. (Policy allows February or June rotation or at board discretion.)
- 5. Review of the budget:** The board examined a comparison of last year's budget to actual expenditures. The differences were expected, such as reduced expenditures due to the delay of projects. The board then reviewed the new budget. Burn revenue is expected to decline. In comparison to current staff costs, the budget shows a surplus of 32,700, and Ahmann explained that this is without the addition of the TSP work, which was overlooked. Ahmann clarified that the surplus is not "money in the bank" but rather, a surplus of grant funds over expenses that will likely be unused funds. **Pat McConnell moved that the current budget be approved after the addition of the TSP work, and Todd Kimball seconded. Motion passed.**
- 6. Martin Quinn Ecology presentation:** Quinn narrated a new Ecology presentation about non-point water quality evaluations being conducted by Ecology. Their work is directed by complaints and/or watershed evaluations. Ecology is not just focused on livestock but is also looking at storm water systems, erosion from croplands, and other sources of sediment. Ecology staff observe from public right-of-ways and can use Google Earth, but do not use drones or aircraft. This year they are looking at Hangman creek (after complaints) and in Walla Walla, Yellowhawk, Mud Creek, Mill Creek and Garrison Creeks. Ecology plans to send letters to about 5 landowners per conservation district. Quinn also commented that the grant applications from the district were very good and under normal circumstances would have been funded; he expects if they are resubmitted next round, they would rank highly and be funded.
- 7. NRCS report:** Ed Teel reported that CSP and EQIP signups are open but that the funding is half of past years'. He hopes to do some livestock, some irrigation, and a forestry project and that will probably expend the funds.

## **New Projects for Board Approval**

- 1. Meters and Screens:** Oosterhuis referred the board to the list on her report, specifically 6 old Beechinor meters (and possibly 2 more) plus one meter project for Hamada.
- 2. CREP:** Cowles Cleveland reported that things are really opening up with the passage of the capital budget. There are 7 new contracts under development and 2 more ready to go. At his request, Cowles Cleveland discussed the Hassler project with Craig Hodenfield (the cattle owner) about additional gravel needed for the cattle crossing area which is a heavy use area. She agreed with him that additional gravel may be necessary. **Jeff Schulke moved to approve the projects as described, and to send a letter to Hassler to make**

**her aware of both her obligations to maintain the buffer and limited funding available for her project; Todd Kimball seconded, motion passed.**

### **Program Updates**

1. **CREP:** Jensen's project is largely done. It is a small acreage with high costs (off-site watering) and he will be requesting additional installation funds from County Committee next week. Hyland is moving forward developing a weed control plan. The new projects are fewer in number but larger in acreage.
2. **Meters/Screens:** Oosterhuis referred to her report. There are 18 meter projects being installed. If the CTUIR doesn't respond to the Cultural Resources Reviews in the near future, these will be installed soon. The Brownfield screen has been cancelled.
3. **Burn.** Hadley reported burning is down this spring due to a reduction in burning of alfalfa seed residue. Chvatal explained that some growers are sending alfalfa straw to the Starbuck pulp mill; also there is a seed surplus and with milk prices down, demand for alfalfa is down as well.
4. **Task Orders:** Staff are working with Ed to meet the ranking deadlines.
5. **VSP:** Hadley and staff are doing field checks; the initial letters have resulted in 20 landowners expressing interest. She described the process in brief: staff summarizes what they observe, they discuss options with landowners, and then landowners can decide how to address the critical areas. Hadley reported there are ample funds and a great deal of work; the board agreed that she should hire any staff she needs.
6. **Education/Outreach:** Outreach activities included the annual meeting, recent mini-sessions, and visits to a local school to teach about habitat.
7. **Restoration Projects:** With the passage of the capital budget, we are moving forward with McCaw and Mill Creek. The McCaw project contract was signed.

**Employee Reports:** Nothing specific, board members were referred to board reports.

### **Joint Agency Meetings**

1. **WW Water Management Partnerships:** The partnership is funded through 2019. Alternates for the conservation district position on the board were discussed; Ed Chvatal is the current representative and Cody Chapman is the alternate.
2. **SFRFB meeting:** Funding came through with the passage of the capital budget and they set up partner agreements. There was discussion of merging the habitat work schedule with other agency databases.

### **Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:**

**Hadley** reminded the board that annual performance reviews are upcoming.




Hadley would like the board to declare surplus an old desk (Kinsinger's), a chair and an old file cabinet. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to surplus these items, motion passed.**

There was no public comment.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 without a formal motion.**

Respectfully submitted

  
Audrey Ahmann  
Assistant Manager, Finance

  
Ed Chvatal,  
Chairman

  
Jeff Schulke  
Member

Next meeting: March 12, 2018

Motions:

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| To approve the January minutes as written:                                       | Motion: Schulke<br>Second: Kimball<br>Motion passed        |
| To approve the February Financial report:  | Motion: Kent<br>Second: Kimball<br>Motion passed           |
| To pay a CREP maintenance bill and send a letter explaining eligible activities: | Motion: McConnell<br>Second: Kimball<br>Motion passed, 3-2 |
| To approve two addendums as read,  | Motion: Schulke<br>Second: Kent<br>Motion passed           |
| To approve the budget after adding the TSP work,                                 | Motion: McConnell<br>Second: Kimball<br>Motion passed      |
| To approve Beechinor and Hamada meter projects and send a letter to Hassler,     | Motion: Schulke<br>Second: Kimball<br>Motion passed        |
| To surplus a desk, chair, and file cabinet,                                      | Motion: Schulke<br>Second: Kent<br>Motion passed           |