

Walla Walla County Conservation

District July Board Meeting

Date: July 9th, 2018

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Pat McConnell

Supervisors Present: Pat McConnell, Jim Kent, Jeff Schulke and Associate Annie Byerley

Supervisors Absent: Todd Kimball, Ed Chvatal, Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Robert Fowler, Lynda Oosterhuis, Audrey Ahmann, and member of the public Leo Pauly

Guest: Jerry Hendrickson, WACD

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Pat McConnell.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the June minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 13193 to 13241, total all accounts: \$308,607.11

As of this date July 9th, 2018 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the July financial report and further described as follows: Checks 13193 through 13241. Total Accounts Balance: \$308,607.11

New Business:

- 1. NRCS Update:** Ed Teel described a cover crop trial in Asotin County that tested whether a radish or turnip cover crop could help break the soil hard pan and improve water infiltration. The 5-year study is in 15" rainfall on 20 acre fields. The results show deeper soil moisture in the soil profile and increased wheat yields. The cover crop field had higher moisture than a chem. fallow field. The cover crops were sprayed out June 15th. In Whitman County trials, the cover crops were not sprayed out but allowed to go dormant. They rejuvenate in the fall, and then the producer plants a fall crop. Ed Teel would like a Walla Walla producer to volunteer 20 acres to do a similar trial.
- 2. Office Lease:** Cowles Cleveland referred the board to the handout in their packets showing amounts spent to date toward the office lease. Hadley reported Ray Tracy plans to retire; he will complete work planned for the fall and possibly into the spring. She is looking for qualified archeologists to do future work.
- 3. Discuss and adopt Accessibility Plan:** The District needs to comply with the Washington Legislative Policy 188 regarding ADA compliance for information. Districts need to develop a plan to make their websites accessible. Hadley drafted a plan and after board review,

Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the website accessibility plan as presented, motion passed.

The board departed from New Business to allow guest Jerry Hendrickson, supervisor of Asotin and the SE Area representative on WACD, time to speak. He reported on recent activities of WACD, including the hiring of a new executive director. He noted DNR has some timber management grants that could benefit timber operations in our area.

4. **State policy regarding alternative fuel vehicles:** Ahmann explained that in 2007, the state legislature passed a mandate that all state and local government agencies convert their vehicle fleets to electric or biodiesel vehicles by 2018; few agencies have complied (or, like us, were even aware of the mandate). The RCW allows for an agency to consider the practicality of such a conversion. Ahmann drafted a resolution listing several reasons this is impractical for the district at this time. After review, **Jim Kent moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the resolution as presented, motion passed.**

New Projects for Board Approval/Program Updates

1. **CREP:** Cowles Cleveland reported that 15 CREP contracts are up for reenrollment; 5 are signed and others are in progress. The lower rental rates are affecting participation. Some projects are being reduced acreage-wise as they previously exceeded the maximum buffer width. Most require some work such as weed control. Cowles Cleveland reported on Ford, Flathers, and Adams. As for new projects, Cowles Cleveland said one is for Morrow who will be eligible for the program August 1st and one for a landowner who is only considering CREP. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the Ford, Flathers, and Adams reenrollments, motion passed. Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the Morrow project, motion passed.**

Program Updates

1. **Meters/Screens/Irrigation Efficiency:** Oosterhuis reported that Dunning has been busy working for landowners installing meters as the grant wraps up. There were 93 meter projects (grant scope called for 80). Hadley has been in contact with Eric Hartwig and may be able to get more meter grant funds in the FY20-21 biennium. It appears that Blalock needs guidance on managing existing resources rather than an IrrEff project. Oosterhuis and Jack Myrick will attend the Blalock board meeting Monday July 16th to offer technical assistance in operating their system.
2. **VSP:** Hadley reported that Fowler has updated and corrected wetland maps and these will be presented to the county.
3. **Education/Outreach:** The newsletter went out. About 170 people attended the BioBlitz.
4. **Restoration Projects:** Hadley referred the board to her report and highlighted a few projects. The Mill Creek fix is complete. The second landowner on the Jones project has been contacted; TSS is providing match. The Department of Corrections crew will be hand-removing the weeds on the Williams' project and the Washington Conservation

Corps is scheduled to build their exclusion fence in November. The Russell Creek Barrier removal also has TSS match. The Soils Study is not providing expected results so more sampling and testing is in the works.

Employee Reports: Board members were referred to board reports. Ahmann reported that Open the Books sent out an email implying we had not responded to their March FOIA request; we had and that was conveyed to them along with a second mailing of the requested information.

Joint Agency Meetings

- 1. WW Water Management Partnerships:** Byerley reported that the Pierce local water plan is being developed. The Department of Ecology is still participating with and supportive of the Partnership.
- 2. SFRFB meeting:** Cowles Cleveland reported that with other funding sources kicking in, the 750,000 Asotin project will use a smaller amount (92,000) so all applicants are now eligible for funding. The cap of 750,000 per project (with increased match required for large projects) is still a contentious issue for the group.
- 3. RTT meeting:** Hadley reported that the CORPS is funding a GI study to work on the flume of Mill Creek as it is a fish passage barrier.


Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:

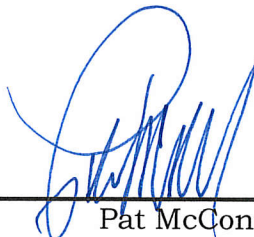
Hadley provided comment on a WDFW document called Riparian Ecosystems: Management Recommendations; she expressed a concern that the recommended buffer width was based on soil and tree height potential without considering rainfall and other concerns.

There was no public comment.

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

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Pat McConnell,
Chairman


Jeff Schulke
Member

Next meeting: September 10th, 2018

Motions:

To approve the June minutes as written:

Motion: Kent
Second: Schulke
Motion passed

WWCCD July 9th 2018 Board Meeting

To approve the July Financial report:	Motion: Kent Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the Website Accessibility Plan:	Motion: Schulke Second: Kent Motion passed
To pass a resolution as presented regarding alternative fuel vehicles,	Motion: Kent Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve three CREP renewals and one new project,	Motion: Schulke Second: Kent Motion passed

ⁱ FYI: The following was not mentioned at the meeting. The District had submitted 3 projects: Cottonwood Creek PALS, Russell Creek Barrier, and the WWRiver Design which are now eligible for funding.