

Walla Walla County Conservation

District Dec. 2018 Board Meeting

Date: December 10th, 2018

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent

Supervisors Present: Todd Kimball, Ed Chvatal, Jim Kent and Associate Annie Byerley

Supervisors Absent: Pat McConnell, Jeff Schulke, Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Lynda Oosterhuis, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Eric Rannestad and Audrey Ahmann

Member of the Public: Leo Pauly

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the Nov. minutes. **Motion by Ed Chvatal and second by Todd Kimball to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 13379 to 13400, total all accounts: \$330,058.33

As of this date December 10th, 2018 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the December financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 13379 to 13400, Total December Balance: \$330,058.33

New Business:

- 1. NRCS Update:** Ed Teel reported that NRCS is continuing review of CSP contracts for 2018 payments. Of note is an emerging issue of grassy weeds in no-till partially attributed by some to no-burn requirements combined with increased chemical resistance.
- 2. CREP Video review:** Intern Eric Rannestad presented the CREP outreach video he's developed. The board expressed approval of the video and suggested it be distributed via Facebook as well as the website. It was suggested the link to the website on the final frame be more prominent.
- 3. Resolution to Adopt Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Hadley explained that if we adopt the County's new hazard mitigation plan, we are eligible to apply for emergency funds in the event of a disaster. **Ed Chvatal moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve Resolution 2018-4 to adopt the Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented, motion passed.**
- 4. Annual Meeting Agenda:** Hadley presented the proposed annual meeting agenda. **Ed Chvatal moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda as presented, motion passed.**

5. **Annual Review of Simple IRA:** Hadley reminded the board they have the option each December to continue and/or modify the SIMPLE IRA plan for employees. **Todd Kimball moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to continue the SIMPLE IRA as a 2% non-elective employer contribution plan for 2019, motion passed.**
6. **CREP Hold-down rates for 2019:** Cowles Cleveland presented the CREP draft hold-down rates for board consideration. At the November meeting the board decided to review these annually in December; the rates will apply to all contracts in active maintenance for the year. After discussion, **Ed Chvatal moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the CREP hold-down rates for 2019 as presented, motion passed.**
7. **Approval of paying accrued leave time:** Hadley explained that in accordance with District policy, employees with annual leave balances in excess of the cap (240 hrs.) may, with board approval, be paid for these hours at the end of the year. **Todd Kimball moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve paying for accumulated annual leave hours over 240, motion passed.**
8. **Review of letter of support:** The board reviewed the letter of support for the SCC budget request. **Todd Kimball moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve the letter in support of the SCC 2019-2021 Biennium Budget request, motion passed.** The board suggested the letter be sent to congressional representatives right away as committees are meeting, even though the legislature is not in session.

New Projects:

1. **VSP Projects:** Hadley presented the VSP list of projects. Members of the VSP work group prioritized the list to a total of 13 BMPs costing about 73,000. Staff are contacting landowners to see if the landowners would like to proceed. Hadley and Stearns will be attending a VSP implementation meeting in Moses Lake later in the week. VSP projects will require board approval along with Work Group and County concurrence. The projects are identified by ID# number (followed by BMP) 20181011: BMPs 391,392, and 395; 20180524a: BMPs 659, 382; 20180125b: 657; 20180212a: 393; 20180628: 342; 20180125a: 342; 20180125b: 342; 20180524b: 587; 20180416B: 649; 20180405: 649 **Ed Chvatal moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the list of VSP projects as presented, motion passed.**

Program Updates:

1. **Oosterhuis:** Reported that Conservation Corps workers have been assisting with rehabilitation of some CURB projects in collaboration with Walla Walla Public Schools.
2. **Cowles Cleveland:** Reported that she is sending landowners the CREP contract letters that more clearly define roles and responsibilities of the landowner and the agencies involved. There are 2 CREP grass filter strip projects being considered but these are delayed until the Farm Bill passes. It has been reported that the new farm bill may increase CRP acres but continue low rental rates.

3. **Hadley:** Hadley drew attention to the difficulty in getting agencies to fund fish screens. Jim Kent was congratulated on receiving the Young Tiger award from WACD.

Joint Agency Meetings



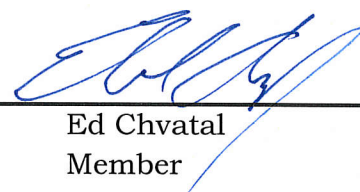
1. **WW Water Management Partnerships:** Chvatal reported that staff would be meeting with legislative representatives to provide information on the work of the Partnership. .
2. **SFRFB meeting:** Cowles Cleveland reported there was no November meeting. John Foltz was instrumental in getting an outside grant for the Buford Creek (Nez Peirce) project, freeing up RCO funds of 650,000, allowing all other projects in the last grant round to be funded. Thursday is the kick-off for the next grant cycle.
3. **Food Coalition:** Oosterhuis reported the WW Valley Food Coalition with BMAC are working on a producer survey and planning a producer focused event at the fairgrounds in February. The local new Trout Unlimited group is active.
4. **WACD:** Hadley reported that one focus at the WACD meeting was good governance. She gave the example of a policy on how to evaluate the manager. The WWCCD manual states the manager should be evaluated according to how well the district completes its Annual Plan of Work. That said, she asked if the board would like to take greater control of developing that plan of work. Members present felt the current process is working well and saw no reason to change.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:

Leo Pauly congratulated the district on the concern the board and the staff show for accomplishing the goals of the district. He observed that we are trying to do the right and that we are doing a good job.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted

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

Next meeting: January 14th, 2019

Motions:

To approve the Nov. minutes as written:

Motion: Chvatal
Second: Kimball
Motion passed

To approve the Dec. Financial report:

Motion: Kimball
Second: Chvatal

	Motion passed
to approve Resolution 2018-4 to Adopt the Walla Walla County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kimball Motion passed
to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda as presented,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kimball Motion passed
to continue the SIMPLE IRA as a 2% non-elective employer contribution plan for 2019,	Motion: Kimball Second: Chvatal Motion passed
to approve the CREP Hold-down rates for 2019 as presented,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kimball Motion passed
to approve paying for accumulated annual leave hours over 240,	Motion: Kimball Second: Chvatal Motion passed
to approve the letter in support of the SCC 2019-2021 Biennium Budget request,	Motion: Kimball Second: Chvatal Motion passed
to approve the list of VSP projects as presented,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kimball Motion passed