

Walla Walla County Conservation

District Jan. 2019 Board Meeting

Date: January 14th, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Pat McConnell

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

Supervisor Absent: Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Lindsey Williams, WWCC Ag. Resource Center; Shana Joy, Conservation Commission

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

Members of the Public: Leo Pauly, Nick Plucker

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Pat McConnell.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the Dec. minutes. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Jim Kent to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 13401 to 13428, total all accounts: \$328,568.27

As of this date January 14th, 2019 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the January financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 13401 to 13428, Total January Balance: \$328,568.27

New Business:

- 1. NRCS staffing update:** With Ed Teel's retirement, NRCS is advertising internally and will appoint an acting director for a 120-day period. Krueger reported many things are uncertain with the new Farm Bill still in the rule-making phase. The Local Work Group will meet March 11th for the FY19 round of funds. There are many CRP contracts that need to be developed when FSA resumes work; it is possible there will be Task Orders so district staff can assist.
- 2. Office Lease quarterly report:** Cowles Cleveland presented the report on expenditures toward the district lease agreement. Last quarter there were no projects needing cultural resource reviews. The District paid over 34,000 toward the lease in 2018. Cowles Cleveland said usually we have a list of projects needing cultural resource reviews but there are none in the queue at this time.

3. **Open Government Training:** Ahmann reminded the board of the requirement that supervisors review the training every four years. The board decided each board member will watch the videos on their own and then inform Hadley. Hadley will send the link to the board members.
4. **Budget vs. Actual comparison:** Ahmann explained that Schedule 22 requires board members to compare actual to expected expenditures for the previous year. The board reviewed the handout showing these. They noted that the district spent 41,000 more than expected on meters; Ahmann explained that Oosterhuis completed more meter projects. In response to questions about the final figure of -88,373 (expenses over income), Ahmann explained that there are outstanding vouchers, the budget is reported on a cash basis, and that the actual deficit for the year is closer to 23,000. The board expressed appreciation for the report.
5. **Election Update:** Ahmann explained that Jim Kent had been reelected by being the only candidate to file by the filing deadline with the required 25 validated signatures. **It was moved by Todd Kimball and seconded by Jeff Schulke to proceed to inform the voting public that the incumbent, Jim Kent, has been re-elected to the currently open position by reason of being the only person filing for the position by the deadline and with the required 25 validated signatures, and therefore, pursuant to WAC 135-110-370, no poll site, absentee or mail balloting will be performed. Motion carried.**

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

New Projects:

1. **Review of new logo:** Intern Eric Rannestad presented his work on designing a new logo for the District. The board liked all three and offered suggestions.
2. **New Projects:** Lynda is reviewing past screen projects and seeking applicants for a new screen grant. Funding agencies now require a list of landowners and specific sites rather than an open-ended grant to install a set number of screens. Stearns is seeking funding for completing the McCaw Phase B project and is also adding the Dozier site at the request of the SRFBoard.

Program Updates:

1. **Oosterhuis:** As recorded above, Oosterhuis is seeking screen applicants and will apply for funds once a list is developed.
2. **Cowles Cleveland** is reviewing CREP reenrollments, completing planning and mapping. As for the new farm bill, she has heard nothing definitive, though there is talk of lower rental rates with possibly more acreage for CREP. She reviewed the projects listed on her report with the board.
3. **Hadley:** Hadley gave the VSP update. At the VSP implementation meeting, staff were encouraged to use VSP funds to apply for grants to install VSP priority projects, rather than using VSP funds to directly install projects (though this is allowed). Kimball

reported that VSP is funded in the governor's budget proposal. Hadley also completed outreach at Burbank School district and plans to attend Legislative Days. She reported that due to reduced staffing at Ecology, Chad Atkins indicated it will be some time before Ecology's water quality folks send out letters to producers about water quality concerns. She also reported we received the three Salmon Recovery grants and are working with the landowners involved. Finally, she mentioned that fall burning was slightly up from last year. The board requested examined the final numbers shown and asked for some clarification regarding refund procedures.

Report from Shana Joy, Regional Manager, SCC: Shana Joy said the CAPP (Conservation Accountability and Performance Program) reviews will be done this month. The Commission is naming an interim director and has a large pool of applicants. The Commission is looking at new ways to allocate the Imp grant funds and is open to suggestions. A committee is being formed to determine the allocation of livestock funds. They are also considering amending the RCW to exempt from public disclosure the contact information of those who request an absentee ballot. They may request a rule change so district elections are all held during the same week. This would allow the SCC to do statewide announcements about elections on behalf of districts.

Joint Agency Meetings

- 1. WW Water Management Partnerships:** Chvatal reported on the Partnerships' budget proposal to the legislature.
- 2. SFRFB meeting:** Cowles Cleveland reported the Regional Technical Team is examining how fish respond to the post-assisted log structures (PALS) installed in Asotin Creek. The recently awarded Cottonwood Creek grant has funds for these along with a few larger structures. PALS are not site-specific engineered structures and are less costly. The Russel Creek project also includes PALS.
- 3. Food Coalition:** Oosterhuis reported the coalition is doing a producer survey to determine what producers need in order to sell locally. She also reported that the Trout Unlimited chapter has new leadership.
- 4. Misc.** Oosterhuis reported that the Walla Walla Community College is working on a local water plan with Ecology regarding irrigating from Titus Creek. Hadley reported that the Critical Low Flow plan developed in 2013 will be reexamined in light of possible drought this coming year, which has been characterized as a borderline El Niño year. Upcoming meetings include an upcoming WADE meeting, a managers' forum, and the Farm to School network.

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

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann


Pat McConnell,


Ed Chvatal

Assistant Manager, Finance

Chairman

Member

Next meeting: February 11th, 2019

Motions:

To approve the Dec. minutes as written:

Motion: Kimball

Second: Kent

Motion passed

To approve the Jan. Financial report:

Motion: Chvatal

Second: Kimball

Motion passed

Resolved, to proceed to inform the voting public that the incumbent, Jim Kent, has been re-elected to the currently open position by reason of being the only person filing for the position by the deadline and with the required 25 validated signatures, and therefore, pursuant to WAC 135-110-370, no poll site, absentee or mail balloting will be performed

Motion: Kimball

Second: Schulke

Motion passed