

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

## July 2019 Board Meeting

Date: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

**Presiding Officer:** Jim Kent

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

**Supervisors Absent:** Ed Chvatal

**Representing Other Agencies:** Lindsey Williams, Walla Walla Community College; Keith Harrington, NRCS Soil Survey Service

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

**Member of the Public:** none present

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.*

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

**Financial Report:** The board reviewed the July Financial Report. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the July financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** Checks included 13534 to 13575, total all accounts: \$354,380.86

**As of this date July 8, 2019 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the July financial report and further described as follows: Checks 13534 to 13575, Total all accounts: \$354,380.86**

**Guest: Keith Harrington, NRCS Soils Survey Service**

Harrington presented plans to assess soils near the Touchet River and other areas to update the Walla Walla soils map from the original 1957 survey. He presented a map of possible survey sites. His goal is to take the existing soils map, verify and correct existing soil delineation lines, and correctly classify the soils. The board expressed support for the plan and may contact his office to encourage moving forward with it.

**New Business:**

1. **NRCS:** Hadley reported that Bryce Krueger continues as acting District Conservationist. The district has a new NRCS Task Order to conduct CSP status reviews.

2. **NRCS office lease update:** The board reviewed the updated office lease sheet. District staff will be completing some field work for NRCS this summer to help meet the lease obligation.
3. **Revised addendum:** The Commission secured some special funds to aid in Orca recovery. The funds are for specific tasks and all districts are eligible. The board reviewed a proposed Imp. addendum to replace the one approved previously. The additional tasks include increasing landowner participation in voluntary efforts such as CURB and conducting outreach activities. **Jeff Schulke moved and Pat McConnell seconded to approve the Implementation grant addendum for FY20 as presented, motion passed.**
4. **Surplus of Equipment:** Ahmann requested the board declare surplus the laptop and printer listed in her board report which are outdated and no longer useful. **Todd Kimball moved and Pat McConnell seconded to declare surplus an ACER aspire laptop and HP 7610 printer, motion passed.**
5. **Blanket Approval for Light Refreshments:** Ahmann reported that the Commission has found a requirement that the board approve purchase of light refreshments prior to purchase. SCC mentioned use of a blanket form. Ahmann adapted a form found online. After review, **Todd Kimball moved and Pat McConnell seconded to approve the blanket authorization for the purchase of light refreshments as presented, motion passed.**

**Public Comments:** Lindsey Williams discussed drone use and policy with the board. Any state agency personnel using a drone needs a drone license and the agency needs a drone use policy. Cowles Cleveland mentioned that a drone would be useful for assessing CREP and other projects. Stearns added staff could use a drone to safely monitor high flow events and the performance of habitat restoration projects under these conditions.

### **Program Updates:**

1. **Oosterhuis** reviewed the situation at the Bosini ditch. WDFW was unable to install a screen using year-end funds as there were too many uncertainties with the site, such as securing it from the public and whether continued withdrawal was practical. She suggested the remaining irrigators on the ditch contact the Partnership to see if their surface water rights could be changed to ground water rights.
2. **Cowles Cleveland** reported CREP was going well with almost all the reenrollments ready for FSA contracting. She is completing as much of the paperwork as possible. She is also assisting Columbia County with their

program, which is in a bit of a bind as there are no NRCS staff personnel stationed at the Dayton office. The initial phase of the Walsh Creek project was completed. The landowner wanted assistance in removing invasive reed canary grass that was plugging the creek and causing flooding into a horse pasture, which in turn delivered both sediment and excess nutrients to the creek. The landowner is very engaged on this project. The Cottonwood project is moving along. Staff assisted with a fish salvage operation, removing 2 to 6" juvenile steelhead which were relocated to Mill Creek as per WDFW recommendations.

3. **Hadley:** The Jones Ditch project was completed. The project replaced a failed culvert and installed a fish by-pass. There were issues with softer soils and the design was not specific enough, resulting in higher than expected costs. Hadley also reported there are two projects eligible for NRI funds this biennium: a bridge/culvert project on the S. Fork of Russel Creek, and Cottonwood Creek PALS. Hadley reported meeting with Mark Wagoner, who met with the lead (Tom Tebb) of the Office of Columbia River about renewed interest in projects to address low flows. Hadley sent information to Tebb on our upper canal piping and aquifer recharge projects. On VSP, Hadley reported of a mapping tool being used by some work groups. It's useful in tracking progress. She expressed privacy concerns due to the amount of information the map opens to the public. The board agreed to adopt a wait and see approach before moving forward on it.
4. **Stearns** reported that there may be 277,000 in NRCS funds for McCaw Phase C. The Dozier design project ranked low and probably won't be funded.

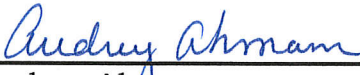
## Joint Agency Meetings


1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** Cowles Cleveland was unable to attend the June meeting. Final scoring for ranked projects will be done next week.
2. **Walla Walla Basin Partnership:** The Partnership is in a transition stage. They sent a letter to the CORPS asking them to slow down development of the Mill Creek Channel plan as they would like to see aesthetic concerns and habitat included in the final plan. The CORPS process is to develop a flood control plan and then add other considerations to it. The CORPS will require state or local funding for these as well.

**Misc. Discussion:** Hadley reported she helped coordinate a field trip with the Washington Association of Land Trusts and discussed conservation practices and agriculture, along with value-added marketing such as being done by Mainstem Malt. She also noted that a UB article about the Garrison led to 5 calls from folks interested in restoration.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 without a formal motion.**

Respectfully submitted

  
Audrey Ahmann  
Assistant Manager, Finance

  
Jim Kent,  
Chairman

  
Jeff Schulke  
Member Vice Chair

Next meeting: September 8th, 2019

Motions:

To approve the June minutes as written,      Motion: McConnell  
Second: Schulke  
Motion passed

To approve the July financial report,      Motion: Kimball  
Second: Schulke  
Motion passed

To approve the revised FY20  
Implementation grant addendum as  
presented,      Motion: Schulke  
Second: McConnell  
Motion passed

To approve the surplus of an outdated  
Acer aspire 5741 and an HP 7610 printer,      Motion: Kimball  
Second: McConnell  
Motion passed

To approve a blanket authorization to  
provide light refreshments at meetings,      Motion: Schulke  
Second: McConnell  
Motion passed