

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

## June 2019 Special Board Meeting

Date: June 3<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

**Presiding Officer:** Jim Kent

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

**Supervisors Absent:** Todd Kimball, Pat McConnell

**Representing Other Agencies:** Lyndsey Williams, Walla Walla Community College

**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 May minutes. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Ed Chvatal to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the minutes from the special meeting held April 22, 2019.

**Motion by Ed Chvatal and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

**Financial Report:** The board reviewed the June Financial Report. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Ed Chvatal to approve the June financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** Checks included 13516 to 13533, total all accounts: \$343,545.84

**As of this date June 8, 2019 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the June financial report and further described as follows: Checks 13516 to 13533, Total all accounts: \$343,545.84**

### **New Business:**

- 1. Internal Audit:** Ahmann reported that the Internal Audit was completed. The action plan is detailed in Ahmann's board report. It has the following suggestions: 1) Copies of the most recent bank account reconciliation should be included in member's meeting materials and 2) Ahmann should make sure all contracts/agreements identified as "Interlocal Agreements" are uploaded to the SAO website prior to submitting the report. Ahmann reported that the latter was done. **Jeff Schulke moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve the action plan as presented, motion passed.**
- 2. WWCCD Cost Share Policy:** Ahmann reminded the board of the usual requirement to pass a cost share resolution for the upcoming biennium. The resolution establishes the cost share and cooperator labor rates used for Commission funded projects. The board reviewed the current policy. **Ed Chvatal moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to continue the current cost share policy for the upcoming biennium as presented, resolution passed.**

3. **Addendums to Master Contract:** The Commission requires updated addendums for each SCC grant for the upcoming biennium. The board reviewed the proposed addendums for CREP, Implementation, and Irrigation Efficiency grants. Although the final amount for each grant has not been determined, Hadley reported the amounts will be very similar to last year. **Jeff Schulke moved and Ed Chvatal seconded to approve the addendums for FY20-21 as presented, motion passed.**
4. **Discussion of Farmer of the Year:** Hadley asked the board if they were interested in naming a Farmer of the Year for 2019. The board agreed this would be a worthwhile pursuit and asked that Hadley bring more details and some nominations at the September meeting.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Program Updates:**

1. **Hadley** reported that the Mud Creek landowners have decided not to pursue their projects, due to changes in their plans and concerns over the CORPS involvement. They considered doing a culvert and may complete this on their own.
2. **Oosterhuis** reported on completing the Wildhorse project and ordering the signs. WDFW has expressed an interest in assisting with the Bosini ditch. There are few irrigators on that ditch. The diversion is on co-op land which is a complication.
3. **Cowles Cleveland:** CREP reenrollments are open. Not all CREP projects will be reenrolled. Some smaller contracts were revised and acreage reduced to better meet program guidelines; as a result some landowners are not reenrolling. She expects these buffers to be left in place for the most part. Work is continuing on Cottonwood Creek with a geomorphologist assisting with planned placement of the structures. The Walsh Creek project is ready to go with all necessary permits. In response to a question about staff work on CRP task orders, Cowles Cleveland said they are looking at the grass stands, noting species mix, making sure the projects follow the parameters of each contract, and writing reports.
4. **Stearns** reported on the status of McCaw Phase B after recent high waters. RCO grant manager Alice Rubin is looking into whether RCO could increase the budget to add some additional backfill material to the project structures.

**Joint Agency Meetings**

1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** The state has budgeted slightly more for the RCO so there might be more \$\$ for our area. This would likely go to McCaw Phase C which, at current funding levels, would only be partially funded. The partner contracts will be approved at the next board meeting. Mid-Columbia Steelhead and Hood Canal Chum salmon are close to being de-listed as endangered. There may be some additional funds directed to recovery efforts to help these two species meet that goal.



- 2. Bi-State Steering Committee:** Hadley reported that there is a lot of discussion of low flows and of the two remaining options to increase flows, being a pipeline or a reservoir. But both have significant drawbacks, including maintenance costs in the million-plus category per year, soils that may not be suitable for a reservoir, and no entity to manage the systems.

**Misc. Discussion:** Hadley noted that NRCS has reopened the applicant process for DC. Bryce Krueger will be the next interim DC. Hadley reported that the Dept. of Ecology is interested in tracing a possible source of PCB contamination in Mill Creek. They suggested we might apply for a Centennial Water grant to do this. The board agreed this would be a good course of action.

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

Respectfully submitted

		
Audrey Ahmann Assistant Manager, Finance	Jim Kent, Chairman	Jeff Schulke Member

Next meeting: July 8th, 2019

Motions:

To approve the May minutes as written,	Motion: Schulke Second: Chvatal Motion passed
To approve the April 22 <sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting minutes,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the June Financial report,	Motion: Schulke Second: Chvatal Motion passed
To approve the Internal Audit Action Plan as presented,	Motion: Schulke Second: Chvatal Motion passed
To continue the current cost share policy in the upcoming biennium as presented,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the FY20-FY21 addendums for Commission grants as presented.	Motion: Schulke Second: Chvatal Motion passed