

Walla Walla County Conservation

District May 2019 Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Pat McConnell

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

Supervisor Absent: Todd Kimball

Representing Other Agencies: None present

Also present: Renee Hadley, Lisa Stearns, and Audrey Ahmann

Member of the Public: None present

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ed Chvatal.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the April minutes. **Motion by Ed Chvatal and second by Jim Kent to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Report: The board reviewed the May Financial Report. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Jim Kent to approve the May financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** Checks included 13498 to 13515, total all accounts: \$365,244.80

As of this date May 13, 2019 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the May financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 13498 to 13515, Total all accounts: \$365,244.80

New Business:

- 1. NRCS:** Tracy Hanger sent Hadley an email with the following information for the board: EQIP application window is closed; NRCS is evaluating EQIP proposals. Producers can still apply for Conservation Activity Plans which are used to identify practices that may lead to an EQIP application. The CSP deadline was last Friday, and while the full rules have not been released, they are expected to be similar to last year's. All CSP FY14 participants were contacted regarding their plans going forward. There were several applications for the District Conservationist position.
- 2. Review of lease summary:** The board reviewed the report. Hadley reported that although the amount spent to date is negligible, NRCS is preparing a list of projects that will require district assistance and count toward our lease obligation.
- 3. Annual Financial Report:** The board received copies of the report and reviewed them. Ahmann explained that the formatting looked different from previous years because now each schedule is downloaded directly from the SAO website after uploading the financial information. She added information (e.g. grant name) to some schedules to make them more clear. Because the internal audit has not yet taken place, Hadley checked the report for accuracy. The board decided to approve the report pending the supervisor review and internal audit which will take place before the May 31st deadline. **Ed Chvatal moved and**

Jim Kent seconded to approve the Annual Financial Report pending completion of the Internal Audit no later than May 31st, motion passed.

- 4. Rotation of the Board:** After discussion, the board decided to rotate offices. **Ed Chvatal moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the following slate of officers: Jim Kent, Chairman; Jeff Schulke, Vice-Chair; Ed Chvatal, Secretary; Todd Kimball, Treasurer; Pat McConnell, member. Motion passed.** Pat McConnell continued to chair the meeting as a courtesy to the new chairman.
- 5. Approval of Master Contract:** The board reviewed the master contract. Hadley reported that it differed only slightly from previous years. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the master contract, motion passed.**
- 6. June meeting date change:** Because both Ahmann and Hadley will be at the WADE training June 10th, the June board meeting date needed to be changed. The board decided to meet June 3rd. This will be a special meeting.
- 7. Discussion of project locations for the upcoming tour:** Hadley reminded the board that the State Conservation Commission will be holding their fall meeting in Walla Walla and this meeting always includes a tour of district projects. She showed the Board a tentative tour schedule to general approval.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Program Updates:

- 1. Hadley** reported that under VSP, the district completed 8 more assessments of small (under 20 acre) ag. properties. These landowners have significant impact to critical areas and have not interacted much with the district in the past. Not all the planned VSP projects will be completed. Some have been funded by other sources. VSP is funded for the next biennium. Hadley is also working toward getting livestock funds from the Commission; as these are capital funds, we are required to have on-the-ground projects and cannot use the funds just to provide technical assistance. In absence of Cowles Cleveland and Oosterhuis, Hadley went over their reports. The Mud Creek project has been reduced to be a water gap with livestock exclusion instead of the original plan to restore the channel. This change means the project won't have to go through the CORPS permitting process. Oosterhuis is still engaged with the food coalition and completing the Wildhorse projects. She is spending more time working on CREP.
- 2. Stearns** reported that McCaw Phase C ranked high enough to be the last project funded but only partially; the SRFBoard has enough to pay for the majority of the project. Another 75,000 is needed. Stearns is seeking out other grant sources. She is also seeking some additional funds for McCaw Phase B.

Joint Agency Meetings

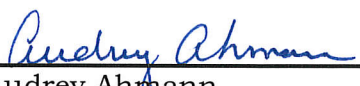
1. WW Water Management Partnerships: Byerley reported that the water-master, Eric Hartwig, now has an assistant to help with Walla Walla water users. The Partnership is funded in the next biennium. She said the Partnership has demonstrated that all avenues for increasing flows (irrigation efficiency, water into trust, leases, etc.) are inadequate to meet the needs of fish. This is important information as it paves the way for a larger project that will support both irrigation and endangered fish species. Ecology seem committed to funding either a reservoir or an exchange system, with the reservoir being the most likely option.

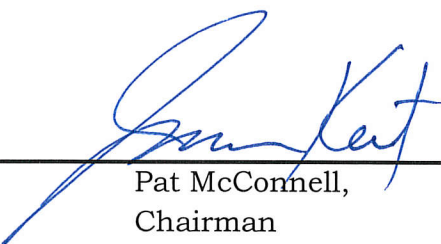
2. SFRFB meeting: No report.

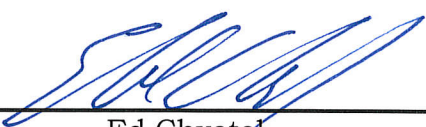
Misc. Discussion: Ed Chvatal discussed some problems with the blow-up dam at Lowden. These problems surfaced after recent high flows. The river has moved and gravel deposits are causing significant issues at the diversion. Hadley had been at the site recently and showed the board some of the options discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Pat McConnell,
Chairman


Ed Chvatal
Member

Next meeting: June 3rd, 2019

Motions:

To approve the April minutes as written:	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the May Financial report:	Motion: Schulke Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the Annual Financial Report pending completion of the Internal Audit,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the rotation of the board,	Motion: Chvatal Second: Schulke Motion passed