

Walla Walla County Conservation

District July Board Meeting

Date: July 10, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Pat McConnell

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Ed Chvatal, Pat McConnell, and Jeff Schulke

Supervisors Absent: Associate Mike Hagerman, Todd Kimball

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Greg Kinsinger, Joanna Cowles, James Dunphy, and Audrey Ahmann.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Pat McConnell.

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

Financial Report: The board reviewed the July Financial Report. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the July financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

Checks included 12808 to 12858, total all accounts: \$256,518.95

As of this date July 10th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the July financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12808 through 12858 Total Accounts Balance: \$256,518.95

New Business:

- 1. NRCS Lease:** Cowles explained the spreadsheet showing District contributions towards the lease. To date, we have met 16,684 of the 37,240 for the year. Cowles said there are a number of additional cultural resource reviews lined up for Ray Tracy and she expects us to meet the 37,240 obligation. Ed Teel mentioned that engineering on Rea's bridge will also be counted toward the lease.
- 2. Ecology Clean Water Panel members:** Wa. Dept. of Ecology is making an effort to develop new BMP's to protect water quality. They are interested in developing BMP's that are backed by studies that satisfy Ecology's technical staff. The structure was described as two panels of about 15 people each, one of technical staff and one including ag. industry representatives. Board members asked to be kept informed as the process develops.

New Projects for Board Approval

- 1. Meters and Screens:** Kinsinger referred the board to the list in their packets (attached). **Jim Kent moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the projects as described, motion passed.**

Program Updates

1. **Screens/Meters:** Kinsinger reported that the BW-OL meter replacement projects was moving along well. The plan is to replace about 30. Obsolete meters with high failure rates are being replaced. Landowners are receiving a discount due to the large number of meters being replaced in the same time period.
2. **Burn permits:** Low to no activity in the program other than refunds.
3. **CREP:** Cowles reported that all the enrollments are ready for the July 20th County Committee meeting. Of the 30 that were up for enrollment, nine smaller projects were not enrolled. The reasons for not re-enrolling included planned transfer of ownership and a desire to have more control over the property. None of the landowners expressed an intention to remove the buffers. New contracts will be the focus for a time. County Committee members will meet with Chris Hyland about his proposed project. The main concern is intense weed pressure and poor soils in a marginal (low rainfall) area. Jensens is moving forward though there are some concerns with costs; the well has been installed.
4. **Restoration.** Renee Hadley provided an update on the status of various restoration projects. McCaw: The project is being held up pending legislative action on the capital budget. It is a tight timeline with a short window. Without state action the project will be delayed until August of 18. Other projects (Rea-Lyons bridge, Mill Creek fix are not in the same time-window.
5. **VSP:** The draft work plan was released for an informal public comment period at the end of June. Three comments were submitted. Landowners continue to express interest in obtaining regulatory assurance, but there are concerns that VSP could become a compliance tool if Ecology becomes more involved.

Employee Reports: Hadley reported that at WADE, districts were encouraged to develop written roles and procedures for supervisors. Other districts also did significant community outreach to develop their five-year plan and in the process recruited several new associates. The board was reminded that the WACD meeting will be in Tri-Cities this year so it is hoped they will attend.

NRCS: Ed Teel reported on the CRP program. There is a possible 3 year moratorium on new CRP. Although some 62,000 acres are up for reenrollment, Kelly Betts told Ed that the proposed farm bill is limiting new acreage in CRP, not re-enrollments. The cap for our county was reduced from 140,000 to 131,000 acres. The number is based on a percent (25%) of harvestable acres in a county.

Joint Agency Meetings

1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities

Partnership Board: No meeting.

2. SFRFB meeting: Steve Martin has taken a position with the state. Deb Seney is retiring, so the SRSRFB will be going through some changes.

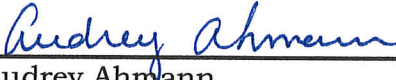
3. Irrigation Efficiency: Hadley reported that with the early development of Irrigation Efficiency into a fish enhancement (through saved flows) program, projects need to show a strong link to surface water flows. A local project being considered was rejected as not doing enough for fish. There are three other potential Irr. Eff. projects.

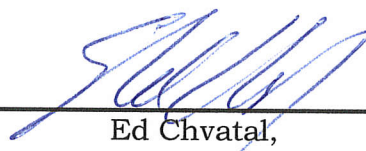
Misc. Discussion and Public Comments:


There were no public comments.

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

Respectfully submitted


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Ed Chvatal,
Chairman


Jim Kent
Member

Next meeting: September 11, 2017

Motions:

To approve the June minutes as written:

Motion: Jim Kent
Second: Jeff Schulke
Motion passed

To approve the July Financial report:

Motion: Jim Kent
Second: Jeff Schulke
Motion passed

To approve the projects as described:

Motion: Jim Kent
Second: Jeff Schulke
Motion passed