

Walla Walla County Conservation

District June Board Meeting

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: District Conference Room

Presiding Officer: Ed Chvatal

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Todd Kimball, Pat McConnell, and Jeff Schulke (joined at 5:45)

Supervisors Absent: Associate Mike Hagerman

Representatives of Other Agencies: Ed Teel, NRCS

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

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

Minutes: The Board reviewed the May minutes. **Motion by Todd Kimball and second by Pat McConnell to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

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

Checks included 12766 to 12807, total all accounts: \$168,850.58

As of this date June 7th, 2017 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the June financial report and further described as follows: Checks 12766 through 12807 Total Accounts Balance: \$168,850.58

New Business:

- 1. NRCS:** Ed reported there is a huge number of CRP contracts up for renewal over the coming year: 148 contracts totaling 62,000 acres. NRCS is low on staff and no hiring is planned. Ed asked that the board consider a Task Order be drawn up, and at least initially, the work would go toward paying our lease. Deadline dates are likely to move but the work should begin in mid-September. The first step will be to obtain the list of expiring contracts from FSA. The field work needs to start ASAP. The board agreed the district should assist NRCS in this matter.
- 2. Introduction:** James Dunphy was introduced to the board as an intern. After completing his service in the military, James graduated from WWCC with a degree in Watershed Ecology. The board expressed their welcome to James.
- 3. Rotation of the Board:** Ahmann mentioned that under the normal course of events, the board rotated officers following the annual meeting and election. It is the board's prerogative to make these rotations at will. Most of the time, the newly elected supervisor has been a current board member. Some districts wait until after the May Commission meeting to rotate board positions as that when elected and appointed supervisors officially

take office. **Todd Kimball moved and Pat McConnell seconded to approve the following rotation of the board; motion passed.**

Ed Chvatal, Chairman

Pat McConnell, Vice Chair

Todd Kimball, Secretary

Jim Kent, Treasurer

Jeff Schulke, member

Mike Hagerman remains an associate member of the board.

4. **Master Contract, FY 18 Addendum, FY18-19 Cost Share policy:** As part of the normal new fiscal year paperwork, the board reviewed the Master Contract we have with the Commission and the draft addendums for commission grants. **Todd Kimball moved and Pat McConnell seconded to approve the new Master Contract and Addendums as presented, motion passed.** The board discussed the current cost share policy. The Commission recently approved an upper cap of 22\$ per hour for landowners' time on their projects. **Pat McConnell moved and Todd Kimball seconded to approve the FY18-19 Cost-share policy as presented, motion passed.**

New Projects for Board Approval

1. **Meters and Screens:** Kinsinger described the new screen and meter projects for board approval. There are 6 meters planned for Chvatal Farms, a screen and meter project for David Hector, and two more for Scott Byerley. **Pat McConnell moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the projects as described, motion passed with Chvatal abstaining.**

Program Updates

1. Screens/Meters:

- a. Hadley showed photos of the fish rescue work done at the Byerley project. 191 salmonids and 300+ other fish were released in nearby Yellowhawk Creek. Pictures of construction were also shown of the screen which is powered by gravity flow. Cottonwood is not a year-round creek and every year WDFW does a fish rescue of stranded fish as it dries up. Large woody debris were installed as mitigation for the screen.
- b. Kinsinger expects to install about 20 meter for landowners of the BW-OL system and possibly another 10.

2. Burn permits: Low to no activity in the program other than refunds.

3. CREP:

- a. All landowners have been contacted about re-enrollment and the majority are planning to re-enroll. Cowles expects to have them done by the July 14th deadline. There are a few more field checks to be completed. There are several new projects and she will focus on them later.
- b. The CREP tour with Brian Cochran of the Commission took place and some of the less than ideal sites were visited. The tour group discussed granting an extra payment to landowners who have excellent projects at the time of re-enrollment as

an incentive to continue active maintenance; this would have to be state funds. Also, FSA is willing to consider completely re-installing projects at problem sites.

4. **Restoration.** Renee Hadley provided an update on the status of various restoration projects.
 - a. McCaw: The project is scheduled to begin this summer if the CORPS permit is released in time.
 - b. Mill Creek Fix and Lyons Bridge: The permits are in hand for Mill Creek and in progress for Lyons Bridge. We are waiting for funds to complete the project. Lyons Bridge is for Mike Lyons (owner); H.T. Rea Farms is the operator. The project replaces an earthen ford with a railcar bridge.
5. **VSP:** The work plan is at about 90% complete and the Work Group encouraged us to proceed with an informal public comment period at the end of the month so as to have this done while funds are still in hand. (State funding is still not certain.)
6. **Education/Outreach:** June 21st there will be a Cereal Grain tour led by Paul Carter of Columbia County. Hadley referred the board to her report for a complete listing of outreach efforts for May.

Employee Reports: Hadley reported that Kay Caromile toured the recently installed fish screens.

Joint Agency Meetings

1. WW Water Management Partnership Activities

Partnership Board: GFID reports that as part of their irrigation plan, since 2011 they have diverted flow during high flow times to Locher pit for shallow aquifer recharge. Steve Patton of the Watershed Council has reported some improvements he believes are related to this. GFID's new water plan was passed by the board but not unanimously. Gardena is passing 18 cfs for fish. Other concerns aired at the Partnership included the looming Hirst decision, new home water withdraws, and the feeling that not enough is being done for fish.


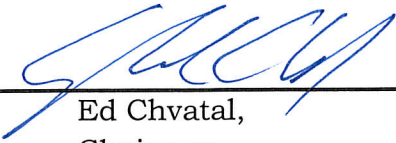
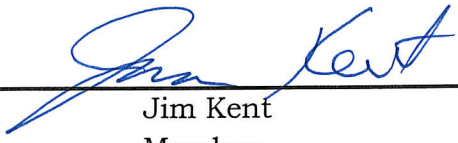
2. **SFRFB meeting:** Steve Martin represented the Pacific Northwest and is seeking an earmark from McMorris Rogers for the Corps to take over the Mill Creek Channel restoration and fish passage improvements. The work is estimated at 20 million.
3. **Oregon Water Coalition:** There is an expectation that every basalt well will be metered there by the end of 2018.
4. **Curriculum Review: Irrigation technology.** Despite high employment rates for graduates, the enrollment in the Irrigation Technology certificate program remains low.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: Hadley mentioned having a project tour later after harvest. The board was supportive of the idea.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted

		
Audrey Ahmann Assistant Manager, Finance	Ed Chvatal, Chairman	Jim Kent Member

Next meeting: July 10th 2017

Motions:

To approve the May minutes as written:	Motion: Todd Kimball Second: Pat McConnell Motion passed
To approve the June Financial report:	Motion: Pat McConnell Second: Todd Kimball Motion passed
To approve rotation of the board:	Motion: Todd Kimball Second: Pat McConnell Motion passed
To approve the Master Contract and Addendums	Motion: Todd Kimball Second: Pat McConnell Motion passed
To approve the new FY18-19 cost share policy:	Motion: Pat McConnell Second: Todd Kimball Motion passed
To approve the projects as described:	Motion: Pat McConnell Second: Jim Kent Motion passed with Chvatal abstaining