

Walla Walla County Conservation District

April 12 2021 Board Meeting

Date: April 12th, 2021 Time: 5:00 p.m. Place: Via phone conference

Presiding Officer: Jeff Schulke

Supervisors Present: Pat McConnell, Jim Kent, Associate Annie Byerley

Supervisor Absent: Ed Chvatal, Todd Kimball

Other Agencies: Allisa Carlson, SCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, all WWCCD.

Members of the Public: Alyson Buckley

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Jeff Schulke

Minutes: The Board reviewed the March minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Pat McConnell to approve the minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Report: The board reviewed the April Financial Report. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Pat McConnell to approve the April financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** Checks included 14071 to 14101, total all accounts: \$243,262.49

As of this date April 12th, 2021 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the April financial report and further described as follows: Checks 14071 to 14101, total all accounts \$243,262.49

New Business:

- 1. Snake River Salmon Recovery grant application resolutions:** Hadley informed the board that the resolution approving the application for five RCO grants was sent back as the reviewers wanted to include the project application numbers; under the previous resolution, they were listed by project name only. **Jim Kent moved and Pat McConnell seconded to approve the updated resolution to include project numbers as presented, motion passed.**
- 2. Budget:** Ahmann explained the two budget documents included in board preparation materials. One compared the 2020 budget with actual income and expenses. The board discussed that the McCaw project was not on the 2020 budget;

Hadley explained that one of the primary funding sources had not been finalized in time to be included on the 2020 budget. While the closing amount showed a deficit, Ahmann drew the board's attention to income received in early January of 2021. This more than accounted for the deficit at the end of December. On the budget presented for 2021, Hadley noted that 5 RCO grants and two Ecology grants will be open in mid to late 2021, but the final budgets for these have not been approved so they were not included. The funding shown will cover district expenses regardless. **Pat McConnell moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the 2021 Budget as presented, motion passed.**

- 3. Summary Rep. Simpson's proposal:** Hadley reported on the current proposal by Rep. Simpson of Idaho to breach the 4 Snake River dams. One of Rep. Simpson's associates attended a Blue Mountain Land Trust meeting (Hadley also attended) and gave a presentation. The associate was seeking support from the ag. community. Hadley informed those at the meeting that the WWCCD board had not favored past proposals along this line. She asked the board if this was still their general feeling. The board reiterated their opposition to the proposal.

Program Updates: Hadley referred to Oosterhuis' board report and said the work funded by the WSARE grant is going well. Pictures will be available at the May board meeting. This project is a first step in working with the vineyards. **Cowles Cleveland** has been pleased with progress on the tree release work. It was noted that one of the contractors has hired extra crews and is working with diligence to get the projects completed in time. In areas with flooding, sediment several inches deep on the tarps makes it difficult but the contractor is doing a good job of addressing even these areas; the contractor is not doing just the easier projects. **Hadley** is still actively seeking a stream restoration project manager; she had two recent applicants. The Burn program saw a flurry of activity in March. The Armed to Farm program has 23 participants in Washington state and is being conducted remotely, so this is a nationwide training with strong presenters. On VSP, the SCC state lead on the program has requested that the Work Group meet more often. Lindsey Williams volunteered to join the Work Group. If accepted, that will leave one opening on the Work Group. Hadley shared that the 5 SRSFB/RCO grant applications ranked high enough that funding may be approved. The River Mile 35.5 project ranked second. Project site tours are planned. She will also be sending out a Request for Qualifications for engineering and will work on getting the Russell Creek project out to bid.

Public Comments: Allisa Carlson of SCC reported that on the state budget negotiations, the good news is that neither the Senate nor the House proposals cut funds from district operating budgets. The Senate added funds for CTA which are not in the House budget so there will be some work reconciling this. However, on the capital funded side, there has been a significant cut in CREP TA funds. NRI funds will be funded at previous levels. That program is being reviewed by the SCC to allow more flexibility, including District Implemented Projects (DIP) which will allow a district to implement a project directly. This and other changes are available for draft review and comment by April 23rd.

Joint Agency Meetings

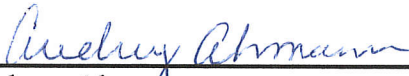
- 1. Snake River Salmon Recovery Board.** Cowles Cleveland reported that the last meeting was uneventful. There was discussion of funding the small Touchet River fish trap which will be used to monitor fish passage.

- 2. 2050 Plan:** Hadley reported that there will be a draft released at the end of April outlining proposed projects. There was discussion of seeking congressional earmarks for larger projects. It was mentioned that Ecology and CTUIR plan to take an active role in approving any water management decisions made.

- 3. Partnership:** No specifics.

Executive Session: The board went into Executive Session at 6:00 as per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to review the performance of a public employee. The board announced they would return to open session as 6:15. The board returned from exec. session at 6:20. After discussion, Pat McConnell moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve to the pay increases for employees as presented.

Respectfully submitted,


Audrey Ahmann
Assistant Manager, Finance


Jeff Schulke
Chair


Ed Chvatal
Secretary

Next meeting: ~~June 14, 2021~~ at **5:00** p.m.
May 10, 2021
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Motions:

To approve the March minutes as written,	Motion: Kent Second: McConnell Motion passed
To approve the April financial report,	Motion: Kent Second: McConnell Motion passed
To approve the updated resolution to include RCO project numbers as presented,	Motion: Kent Second: McConnell Motion passed
To approve the 2021 Budget as presented,	Motion: McConnell Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve employee pay increases as presented,	Motion: McConnell Second: Kent Motion passed