

Walla Walla County Conservation District

Oct. 11th 2021 Board Meeting

Date: Oct. 11, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Courtyard by Marriott Conference Room and via phone link

Presiding Officer: Annie Byerley

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Annie Byerley, Alyson Buckley

Supervisor Absent: Pat McConnell, Jeff Schulke

Other Agencies: Allisa Carlson, SCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann, Grant Traynor, Alison Crowley

Members of the Public: none

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Annie Byerley

Minutes: The Board reviewed the September meeting minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the September minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the October Financial Report. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the October financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** October report included checks 14200 to 14227, total all accounts: \$448,180.69

As of this date Oct. 11th 2021 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the October financial report and further described as follows: Checks 14200 to 14227, total all accounts \$448,180.69

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

- 1. Partner Updates:** Allisa Carlson reported that all subcommittee recommendations for changes to elections for districts have been approved by SCC. Incorporation of those changes will likely occur in the election spring of 2023 and an interim executive director appointed. Changes to the Cultural Resources Review process were discussed. **Hadley** reported on behalf of NRCS that the federal government mandated all co-located staff be vaccinated by November 22nd. Sean Taylor, who has been working with NRCS for WDFW, may be relocating as interest in screens has declined. Hadley also reported that after receiving our letter on the subject, WSU has re-opened the extension agronomist position and is seeking applicants. She also

spoke with several SCC staff about the reduction in CREP TA for the district and received assurances they would investigate.

2. **Annual Review of MOU/MOA list:** Ahmann presented the list of agreements with agencies for board review. This is a Schedule 22 requirement. The board reviewed the list.
3. **Annual Review of Policy Manuals and proposed additions:** Ahmann reviewed the proposed changes, most related to the change to direct deposit. The proposed policy changes payday to the first working day of the month (to be implemented January to allow staff time to adjust). The policy adds the required participation in the state long-term care insurance and Juneteenth as a holiday (the district follows federal holidays as the office closes). The controls currently in place for payroll direct deposits are added to the Internal Procedure Manual. **Alyson Buckley moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the changes to the Personnel and Internal Procedure Manuals as presented, motion passed.**
4. **Draft Resolution for WACD:** Hadley presented a resolution directing WACD to give priority to existing programs when seeking new funding. WACD helped secure additional Implementation funds for technical assistance, but not CREP TA which saw a significant reduction. Other districts also had CREP TA reductions. After discussion, **Jim Kent moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to accept and advance the resolution as presented, motion passed.**

Program Updates:

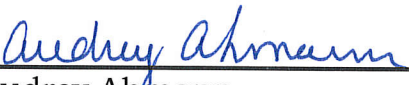
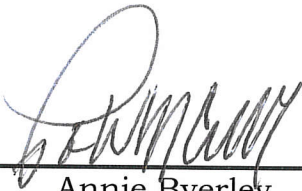
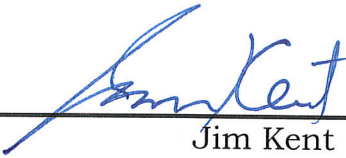
Hadley referred members to Cowles Cleveland's report. She is working with Alice Rubin to convert the RCO Cottonwood to design only. She is directing the Conservation Corps crew in collecting willows and doing site prep to plant the DOE Canopy Cover project. She submitted a grant to fund a second phase of false indigo removal followed by riparian restoration. **Alison Crowley** reported plans for an upcoming Mill Creek meeting focused on Floodplains by Design work. Engineers hired for the work will attend and discuss the project with landowners. The KUJ interview with Jim Bock went very well. She is working to get landowner acceptance forms in place before fall sets in. **Grant Traynor** reviewed his outreach efforts for VSP. He assisted with fall planting efforts and worked with WSU on a vegetative analysis (for VSP reporting purposes). He asked the board to help set priorities, given the many options that can be pursued under VSP, including soil acidification, direct seed, noxious weed control, and commodity buffers. He met with Pat McConnell and Seth of Spokane CD to develop some possible program parameters for commodity buffers. Dave Maiden of the WW Weed Board proposed partnering with us on weed control using biologicals. Landowner letters were sent out for the Coppei and Touchet projects. **Hadley** mentioned that Cat Garza had met with Governor Inslee as a student in the WWCC Ag. Systems program. Garza took the opportunity emphasize the importance of local conservation districts. Also, field work for the Touchet River project is complete, rough estimates are in, and the design work going well. Finally, Hadley mentioned recent UB articles about district work.

Joint Agency Meetings

1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** No report.
2. **2050 Plan:** The DOE, Oregon Water Resources, and CTUIR met with members of the group and Renee urged them to use information being submitted (instead of requesting more) and to conduct water quality tests to measure TMDL conditions; the last such testing took place in 2007.
3. **Others:** Annie Byerley reported that the WACD Diversity and Inclusion Task force completed its work and made recommendations to the WACD. The recommended changes are to increase diversity in district hiring and cooperators.

With no further business on the agenda, Alyson Buckley moved and Jim Kent seconded to close the meeting, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

		
Audrey Ahmann	Annie Byerley	Jim Kent
Assistant Manager, Finance	Chair	Secretary

Next meeting: November 8th, 2021 at **4:00 p.m.**

Motions:

To approve the October minutes as written,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To approve the October financial report,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To approve the changes to the Personnel and Internal Procedure Manuals as presented,	Motion: Buckley Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve a resolution as presented requesting WACD prioritize existing programs when seeking new funding,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To close the meeting,	Motion: Buckley Second: Kent Motion passed