

Walla Walla County Conservation District

April 11th 2022 Board Meeting

Date: April 11, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via conference call

Presiding Officer: Annie Byerley

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Alyson Buckley, Jeff Schulke

Supervisor Absent: Jesse McCaw

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Corrie Thorne-Hadley, WDFW; Allisa Carlson, SCC; Lindsey Williams, WWCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Lynda Oosterhuis, Alison Crowley, and Grant Traynor.

Members of the Public: Dan Milden

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Annie Byerley

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

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the April Financial Report. Ahmann explained she could not generate the treasurer's report due to a 2-cent discrepancy and a stop payment; the system would not generate a report since it didn't balance. The stop payment was for a check outstanding since June 2021. However, she did present a record of all transactions from March 15th to date.

Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Jim Kent to approve the April financial report and pay the bills, motion passed. April report included checks 14349 to 14369; total revenues 91,765.78 and expenses 70,236.39

As of this date April 11th 2022 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the April financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14348 to 14369, total expenditures \$70,236.39

New Business:

- 1. Partner Updates: Thorne-Hadley** said she met with Traynor to discuss collaboration with VSP and that Grandstaff's replacement will start April 12th. **Carlson** reported that the WACD/SCC legislative review was recorded and is available. There will be an all-district webinar on developing the next biennium budget request. Districts are invited to comment on suggested guidelines for a new program: Sustainable Farms and Fields. SCC will be providing guidance about changes made to the Open Public Meetings Act, such as requiring agendas be posted before meetings and public comment

allowed before action is taken. Milden asked for more information on the legislation; Carlson said it's found in House Bill 1329.

2. **Office Lease Update** Hadley mentioned she let NRCS know our staff are available for work that could apply toward the lease.
3. **Discussion, Policy Full time and benefits:** Ahmann explained that in the past, full-time staff were directed to use leave hours as needed to bring hours up to 40 per week, and leave time earned was reduced when this was not possible, however, the personnel manual is silent on this expectation. The proposed policy makes this clear and offers an exception for staff completing a degree. **Jim Kent moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve the proposed addition to the personnel manual as presented, motion passed.**
4. **VSP meter projects for approval:** Traynor presented three meter projects. The VSP work group had previously approved a total meter projects' budget of 30,000 but projects also need District Supervisor approval. The three projects described are less than 5,000 each. **Jim Kent made a motion which, after discussion and amendment, was proposed as follows: to approve the Cold Creek, WW River, and Valley Chapel meter projects. Jeff Schulke seconded, motion passed with Byerly abstaining.**

Public Comments: There were no comments other than the earlier request for information on revisions to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Program Updates:

Oosterhuis shared the Pollinator Workshop is on schedule and the plantings are growing very well. She helped Traynor on riparian and meter projects. **Cowles Cleveland** said new funds in honor of Lorraine Loomis are available this biennium for riparian projects that make "a measurable difference" or outcome. Staff presented a list of potential projects to the Commission. CRP status reviews begin in April, and the Canopy Cover project areas will be replanted. **Crowley** confirmed receipt of Lidar information. The NWQI project is nearing completion. She is developing "back-pack" lessons for kids in which students are loaned a backpack with lesson materials to complete at home. Wheat Week events were held at Sharpstien Elementary and more are scheduled for May. **Traynor** said VSP is going well; he drafted the monitoring plan. There will be a field tour of Touchet RM 42 in early May (downstream of Waitsburg). The construction grant for Touchet RM 42 ranked 4th of 19 projects so will be funded. He thanked Oosterhuis for her help in developing the 3 meter projects. **Hadley** is pleased with the quality of job candidates and will do one more interview. The Tree of Heaven project is on hold until staff are hired. Supervisors need to complete some training. The SCC Irrigation efficiency lead requests dryland farmers report

drought impacts so as to justify designating a drought emergency this year. Hadley also reported that salmon recovery funding is going up.

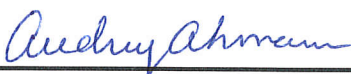
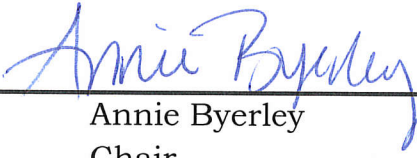
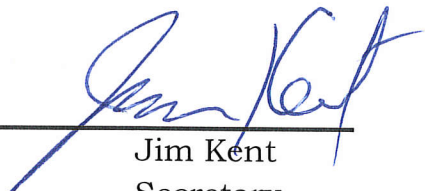
Joint Agency Meetings

1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** No report.
2. **Water Forums:** No report.
3. **Nature Conservancy:** Will be meeting at the Sleeping Lady conference center May 12 and 13th.

Other: The internal audit is scheduled for May 5th; McCaw and Byerley to attend.

With no further business on the agenda, at 6:45 **Jim Kent moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Next meeting: May 9th 2022 at **5:00 p.m.**

Motions:

To approve the March minutes as written,	Motion: Kent Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the April financial report,	Motion: Kent Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the proposed addition to the personnel manual as presented;	Motion: Schulke Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the Cold Creek, WW River, and Valley Chapel meter projects;	Motion: Kent Second: Schulke Motion passed, Byerley abstaining
To adjourn the meeting,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed