

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

## June 2022 Board Meeting

Date: June 13th, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via conference call

**Presiding Officer:** Jesse McCaw

**Supervisors Present:** Jim Kent, Jeff Schulke, Jesse McCaw

**Supervisor Absent:** Alyson Buckley

**Other Agencies:** Bryce Krueger, NRCS

**Also present:** Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann

**Members of the Public:** Dan Milden

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jesse McCaw*

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

**Financial Reports:** The board reviewed the June Financial Report. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the June financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** June report included checks 14383 to 14409; total revenues 76,177.26 and expenses 81,495.53; total all accounts 325,384.63

**As of this date June 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the June financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14383 to 14409, total all accounts \$325,384.63**

### **New Business:**

- 1. Public Comments:** Hadley asked for public comments; there were none.
- 2. Partner Updates:** **Hadley** reported that 5 staff members are at WADE training. She worked with WSU extension to help a landowner understand expectations of Ecology and the county regarding livestock and land use. The legislature has made funding available for salmon recovery projects; one fund is limited to riparian projects and another includes a sustainability goal. **Krueger** said there were no NRCS updates but mentioned that Kayla Peterson did an excellent job presenting at the Pollinator Habitat workshop. Hadley announced the well-respected long-time Washington State FSA head Rod Hamilton passed away shortly after retiring.

3. **Review and Approval of FY23 Imp addendum:** Ahmann presented a draft Implementation grant addendum, which was not markedly different from the FY22 one. After review, **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the addendum as presented, motion passed.**
4. **Signature page and checks to sign:** Hadley reminded the board that Annie Byerley has officially resigned from the board. With this change and the planned officer rotation, a new signature page will be circulated for signature and McCaw added to the checking account as a signatory.
5. **Review of board effectiveness, rotation of board:** Hadley led the board in a discussion of board effectiveness. The board reflected on the past year in terms of board function and operations. It was noted that staff retention is good and new board members are doing well. After discussion, the board moved on to rotation of officers. It was suggested that board positions be moved up as per normal procedures, making **Jesse McCaw Chair, Jim Kent Vice-Chair, Alyson Buckley Secretary, and Jeff Schulke Treasurer.** The position recently vacated by Annie Byerley will be member. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to rotate the board positions as per the usual procedure, motion passed.**
6. **Review VSP monitoring. Hadley** reported that state panel reviewers initially wanted riparian areas on the Snake River included in the Work Plan's habitat goals. Staff presented a slide show to the panel, showing the ag. interface on the Snake River is minimal and the steep rocky slopes of the shorelines will not support extensive riparian vegetation. The state VSP review panel is working with VSP counties to strengthen the monitoring portion of VSP work plans. In the Walla Walla plan (and others) one frequent evaluation tool was education; when goals could not be measured accurately<sup>1</sup>, protection would be evaluated by number of producers receiving education on the critical area. However, reviews said education is not protection or improvement. Hadley discussed options with the board.

### **Program Updates:**

**Hadley** presented updates on behalf of staff. Oosterhuis hosted a successful grower workshop (Beneficial Insects in the Vineyard) and participants observed predatory insects suppressing harmful insects at the demonstration sites. Crowley's work on Mill Creek is on schedule; planned and potential projects were presented to the Mill Creek Work group. Peterson has identified some areas with numerous Trees of Heaven and some with only a few. The WSDA grant funding this project will be extended. Cowles Cleveland is leading work on CRP status reviews and these are almost complete. Site prep is being completed for a new

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<sup>1</sup> For example, improvement of flows due to irrigation efficiency cannot be established when climate change or a bad snow year can mask improvements.

CREP project near Lamar Rd. on the Touchet. Hadley included a one-page summary of salmon recovery work in the board packets. The board then discussed a proposed letter in support of the work done by WACD, in coordination with districts, to develop policies to guide districts in a variety of areas.


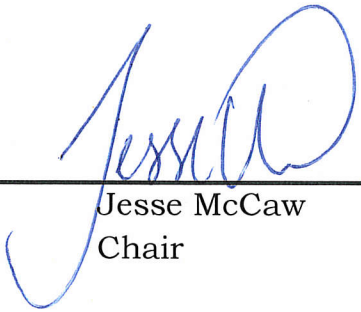
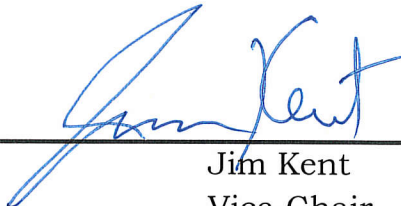
### Joint Agency Meetings

1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** Cowles Cleveland's report included a note that the state has added additional funds (almost double the usual allocation) to this RCO funding source.
2. **Water Forums: Hadley** reported that the Walla Walla Basin Advisory Committee (formerly the 2050 group) did not accept any of the district's 12 proposed projects.
3. **WCC Ag. Advisory Committee:** Reviewed the soil science and livestock curriculum which has 12 students enrolled in the BA of Applied Science program.

**District Operations: Hadley** said Kayla Peterson requested she be hired full time and the board agreed to the change in employment status.

With no further business on the agenda, at 6:30 **Jim Kent moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

		
Audrey Ahmann	Jesse McCaw	Jim Kent
Assistant Manager, Finance	Chair	Vice-Chair

Next meeting: July 11th 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

### Motions:

To approve the May minutes as written,

Motion: Schulke  
Second: Kent  
Motion passed

To approve the June financial report,

Motion: Kent  
Second: Schulke  
Motion passed

To approve the FY23 Imp. addendum as presented;

Motion: Schulke  
Second: Kent  
Motion passed

To rotate the board positions as per the usual procedure (McCaw Chair, Kent Vice-Chair, Byerley Secretary, Schulke Treasurer);

Motion: Schulke  
Second: Kent  
Motion passed

To close the meeting,

Motion: Kent  
Second: Schulke  
Motion passed