

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

## May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board Meeting

Date: May 9th, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via conference call

**Presiding Officer:** Annie Byerley

**Supervisors Present:** Jim Kent, Alyson Buckley, Jesse McCaw

**Supervisor Absent:** Jeff Schulke

**Other Agencies:** Allisa Carlson, SCC

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

**Members of the Public:** Dan Milden

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

**Minutes:** The Board reviewed the April meeting minutes. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the April minutes as presented, motion passed.**

**Financial Reports:** The board reviewed the May Financial Report, which included the treasurer's report and reconciliation from March. (As of meeting time the bank statement had not been received.) The board requested that the Budget Position statement include additional detail each quarter. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the May financial report and pay the bills, motion passed.** May report included checks 14370 to 14382; total revenues 4567.75 and expenses 50,367.57; total all accounts 330,702.90

**As of this date May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the May financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14370 to 14382, total all accounts \$330,702.90**

### **New Business:**

- 1. Public Comments:** Hadley asked for public comments before business started; there were none. Later in the meeting a member of the public asked about the groundwater aquifer report; Hadley replied it is a USGS five-year report and not completed.
- 2. Partner Updates:** Carlson mentioned that changes to the public meeting act included asking for public comment before conducting business & posting agendas 24 hours in advance on websites. The requirement to have a remote option for meetings ends in June but is still advised as a best practice. Carlson requested feedback on the FY23-25 biennium budget and

invited folks to attend the May 19<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Budget meeting. **Hadley** then announced WDFW hired Steve Martin to head the local WDFW and that the extension office was asked to provide guidance on options for fields formerly enrolled in CRP. WSDA is working with EPA to update labeling guidelines and considering starting a Pesticide Stewardship Program.

3. **Approval of Annual Report, Internal Audit:** The board reviewed the annual report. The audit committee (Byerley and McCaw) said the Internal Audit was completed and they recommended the annual report be approved. **Alyson Buckley moved and Jesse McCaw seconded to approve the annual report as presented, motion passed.**
4. **VSP Goal: Reduce Pollutants:** Traynor explained that one of the VSP goals is to reduce agricultural pollutants. Success was measured by number of educational events attended. Reviewers would like the county to adopt a more definitive assessment method. Traynor said some counties have tallied success by working with individuals on a field by field basis and others are cost sharing new sprayer technology. Oosterhuis said NRCS might have some data related to the CSP program and Hadley will look into it.
5. **Annual Plan of Work:** Hadley presented the Annual Plan of Work to the board. After discussion, **Jim Kent moved and Jesse McCaw seconded to approved the Annual Plan of Work, motion passed.**
6. **Draft Policy re: Records retention.** Hadley was advised by the state archivist office that if the district keeps records past the required time frame, it should have a policy. The draft policy states final reports and as-builts will be kept 15 years after project completion; Carlson mentioned SCC requires these records be held for the duration of the project design life. **Jesse McCaw moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to approve the policy as amended; that WWCCD will either follow CORE requirements or retain final summary reports and design/as built designs for a period of 15 years after project completion or when design life is reached, whichever comes later, to assist landowners and agencies as projects evolve over time.” Motion passed.**
7. **Small Works Roster:** Hadley explained that the current Small Works Roster maintained by the district has not been used for a number of years and perhaps should be dissolved. **Jim Kent moved and Jesse McCaw seconded to dissolve the Small Works Roster and inform those listed on it; motion passed.**
8. **Change to benefits:** Hadley informed the board that staff had requested a medical insurance policy with a lower yearly deductible. Various options were presented to the board. After consideration, **Jesse McCaw moved and Jim Kent seconded to choose option 4 which features a 500\$ yearly deductible and competitive prescription benefits, motion passed.**

### Program Updates:

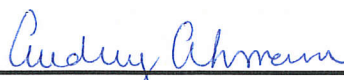
**Oosterhuis** shared her recent outreach with wineries and said the graphic designer is almost done with the first draft of the online guide. **Cowles Cleveland** said staff are in full swing on CRP status reviews. The potted stock on the Touchet didn't do well but willow plantings are doing fine. Additional plants were installed. FSA is declining to cost share reseeding CREP projects and landowners didn't realize this until after incurring the expense. Cochran is working on seeking a resolution at the state level. The board asked about the amounts in question and the district role. District staff did advise landowners that some areas needed reseeding but deferred to FSA in explaining what expenses are eligible for cost sharing. The board will table action until the state (Cochran) comes to a final decision. **Crowley** has assembled educational backpacks with field tools and self-guided outdoor lesson plans for parents to "check out" for their children. It's a new venue for community engagement and conservation education. The board expressed support for the new program. **Traynor** is helping with replanting the Touchet and reported that VSP meter project contracts are signed; landowners with riparian projects are seeking contractors. **Hadley** said permitting related to the "no-rise" requirement from NRCS may delay the Walla Walla 35.5 project until summer of '23. Funding for Irrigation Efficiency projects through the WWBasin Advisory Committee are stalled due to a preference for small projects with a measurable impact on flows. This is hard to provide given the many other factors that affect river flows. Finally, the WADE conference is June 12 through the 16<sup>th</sup> and board members may still opt to attend.

### Joint Agency Meetings

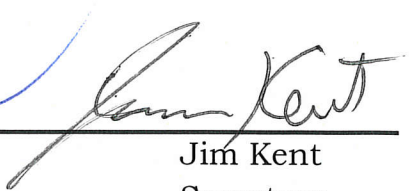
1. **Snake River Salmon Recovery Board:** No report.
2. **Water Forums:** No report.
3. **Nature Conservancy:** Will be meeting at the Sleeping Lady conference center May 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business on the agenda, at 6:50 **Jim Kent moved and Jesse McCaw seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Audrey Ahmann  
Assistant Manager, Finance

  
Annie Byerley  
Chair

  
Jim Kent  
Secretary



Next meeting: June 13th 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

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| To approve the April minutes as written,  | Motion: Kent<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed    |
| To approve the May financial report,  | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Buckley<br>Motion passed |
| To approve the Annual Financial Report as presented;  | Motion: Buckley<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed |
| To approve the Annual Plan of Work;   | Motion: Kent<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed    |
| To add policy stating WWCCD will either follow the CORE requirements or retain final summary reports and design/as built designs for a period of 15 years after project completion or when design life is reached, whichever comes later, to assist landowners and agencies as projects evolve over time, | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Buckley<br>Motion passed |
| To dissolve the Small Works Roster and inform those listed on it,   | Motion: Kent<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed    |
| To choose an insurance policy featuring a 500\$ yearly deductible and competitive prescription benefits,  | Motion: McCaw<br>Second: Kent<br>Motion passed    |
| To close the meeting,   | Motion: Kent<br>Second: McCaw<br>Motion passed    |