



Walla Walla County Conservation District

Nov. 2022 Board Meeting

Date: Nov. 14, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via conference call

Presiding Officer: Jesse McCaw

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Jeff Schulke

Supervisor absent: Alyson Buckley

Other Agencies: Allisa Carlson, SCC

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

Members of the Public: Don Schwerin

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jesse McCaw.

McCaw invited the public to comment; there were no comments.

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

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the November Financial Report. **Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the November financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date November 14th 2022 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the November financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14511 to 14538, revenues 81,507.02 and expenses 160,343.78; total all accounts \$114,281.59

- 1. Partner Reports: Carlson** said SCC has prepared a packet of information about the upcoming legislative outlook. Elections, salmon recovery, and water rights will be issues. The upcoming biennium is expected to contract compared to the current one. The Farms and Fields Program is now funded. There are project funds in VSP, Salmon Recovery, and Engineering. The board agreed to send a letter to our legislators in support of conservation district funding.
- 2. Addendum for Salmon Recovery Projects:** The board discussed the projects (Buttice, Yellowhawk 4, Caldwell Creek, Edwards Choi, Lyons Rea) in general. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the SRF funding resolution as presented, motion passed.**

3. **Request to waive cost share on District Implemented Project:** Staff explained that District implemented Projects involve multiple landowners. The SCC guideline specifies that such projects are not “cost shared” with landowners and do not include landowner cost share applications. The board was asked to waive the 15% cost share on the Caldwell DIP project. **Jim Kent moved to waive the 15% landowner cost-share requirement on SCC District Implemented projects provided the board is informed of the projects when this is applied, Jeff Schulke seconded, motion passed.** The board agreed this would apply to Caldwell.
4. **Annual Review of MOU, ILA, and contracts:** **Hadley** presented an updated list of MOUs and other agreements for board discussion. The board reviewed the list.
5. **Discussion of Irrigation Efficiency program:** **Hadley** explained that the IrrEff program funded piping and pivot projects with a salmonid benefit. Jack Myrick headed the program and is retiring. He is spending some time training Annie Byerley on aspects of the program. Next biennium TA will be for projects, not water-right/irrigation forums. Handline conversions will be eligible for funding. In the past, the district used this fund to help cover Oosterhuis’ time assisting folks read their water meters. She reported doing this service for 6-8 irrigators. In response to questions, Oosterhuis said she can continue; however, we do not have a stable funding source. The board directed her to inform landowners the funding has ended and that this will be the last year she can assist. She will look into finding someone local to provide the service.
6. **Summary SE Area meeting:** **Hadley** included highlights from the meeting in the board packets. SCC has 8 new or moved positions. The WACD Investment Policy working group will allocate 2% of their funds to increase services to CDs. USDA NRCS is working to resolve staffing shortfalls.
7. **Resolution to set the date/time of the election:** **Byerley** presented the draft resolution in the board packets. After discussion, **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the election resolution as presented, motion passed.**


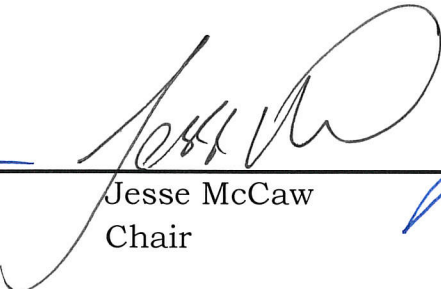
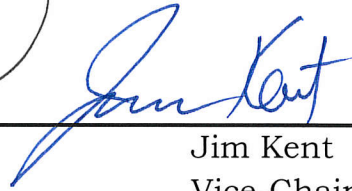
Revisit policy re: comp time: **Hadley** reported that other districts offer comp time but don’t have quite so large a cap. Staff want to keep earning comp. as an option. The board agreed to set the cap at 40 hours and pay out unused accumulated time every 6 months. Comp time earned over 40 hours will be paid as overtime in the pay period earned and should be used before annual leave. The board plans to revisit the issue in a year. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to revise the personnel manual as presented, motion passed.**

Program Updates: **Oosterhuis** said the final report for WSARE is in progress and the Spanish translation of the outreach booklet is almost complete. Grass was seeded at the demonstration site. She is looking into an annual speakers' series for vintners. Status reviews are in progress; tarps have been removed at three CREP sites. She received a lot of responses to the CURB outreach letter and 16 landowners are interested in projects. The three Yellowhawk projects also making progress. **Cowles Cleveland** is expecting to complete three CREP projects. We have about 20 CRP status reviews to complete before September 30, 2023. The Touchet Canopy Cover (False Indigo removal and replant) will close at the end of June. An auger purchased under the Walla Walla RM35 grant will help with planting on the Touchet. There are still labor shortages. Cottonwood designs should be complete by the end of the month; Caldwell Creek designs are also almost done. The SRSRF board (Lead Entity) has a large project fund (in the 5,000,000 range) and may be used to complete the Mill Channel Project (improving fish passage). Plant sale orders will be taken on-line in February with planned March pickup. We will be selling native stock that are not readily available through local nurseries and shouldn't interfere with local businesses. **Crowley** showed some outreach photos and a map of the site areas. **Traynor** shared recent project installation pictures. **Peterson** reported on progress with the Tree of Heaven project and is working toward becoming a certified planner. **Byerley** toured the Tribal Hatchery where they have circular tanks that provide a continuous current that helps develop stronger fish.

Dan Milden asked about proposed 250' buffers. Hadley explained the "site potential tree height" standard can result in requiring a 250' buffer but this was not passed by the legislature. The additional CREP, VSP, and Salmon Recovery Funds were a compromise to demonstrate funding volunteer restoration is an effective option. Don Schwerin said the idea of an "enhanced" buffer width was an attempt to repair the relationship between various stakeholders.

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

Respectfully submitted,

		
Audrey Ahmann District Staff	Jesse McCaw Chair	Jim Kent Vice-Chair

Next meeting: Dec. 12. 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the Oct. minutes as written,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To approve the November financial report,

Motion: Kent
Second: Schulke
Motion passed

To approve the SRF funding resolution as presented,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To waive the 15% landowner cost-share requirement on SCC District Implemented projects provided the board is informed of the projects when this is applied,

Motion: Kent
Second: Schulke
Motion passed

To approve the election resolution as presented,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To amend the district personnel manual regarding comp time as presented,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To adjourn the meeting,

Motion: Kent
Second: Schulke
Motion passed