



Walla Walla County Conservation District

Oct. 2022 Board Meeting

Date: Oct 11, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via conference call

Presiding Officer: Jesse McCaw

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Alyson Buckley, Jeff Schulke (joined late)

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS, Allisa Carlson, SCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann, Annie Byerley, Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Lynda Oosterhuis, Kayla Peterson

Members of the Public: Jean Dolling, Dan Milden

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Jesse McCaw

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

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 reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date October 11th 2022 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the October financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14483 to 14510, revenues 100,569.11 and expenses 171,853.69; total all accounts \$193,220.67

- 1. Partner Reports: Krueger** reported the CSP and EQIP deadline is October 13th and asked board members to spread the word; applications can be submitted with details worked out later. **Carlson** said the SCC approved proceeding to seek legislation implementing the recommendations of the elections committee from last year, which would adjust the terms of supervisors to 4 years, adopt a "Conservation Month" to inform the public of elections, allow districts to go on the general ballot if districts so chose, and require candidates to submit a financial statement, the latter to be developed by the SCC with district input. There will be a district roundtable October 14th. The WACD meeting will be in Wenatchee at the end of November. **Hadley** encouraged members to attend both the SE Area meeting in Asotin and the WACD meeting. Hadley also mentioned that the WSU ag.

extension hired Vic Reeves to lead the weed control board and Caleb Paterson as 4-H coordinator.

2. **Annual Meeting and Elections** The board discussed the upcoming election cycle and decided to hold the election in late January along with the annual meeting as has been done previously.
3. **Review of Internal Procedure Manual and plant sale:** The board reviewed the Internal Procedure manual and adding a policy for plant sales. **Cowles Cleveland** explained the plan is to order plants in bulk. People then pre-order and pay via credit card for plants from the district website. The intention is not to raise funds but to facilitate the planting of native drought resistant, pollinator, and riparian plants. Plants that are not collected by the purchaser will be considered donated to the district. **Alyson Buckley moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve adding the policy regarding plant sales to the Internal Procedure Manual as presented, motion passed.**
4. **WWCCD Personnel Manual and Comp-time discussion:** **Hadley** explained that the district allows staff to accumulate comp time hours instead of overtime, at the required rate of 1.5 hrs comp time for every hour over 40 worked in a week. Most districts pay overtime as it is earned instead of offering this option. Billing overtime to the relevant grants is tracked by the district accounting software. Comp time is not and needs to be tracked separately so it was suggested the district no longer offer it as an option. After discussion, the board decided to table the topic at this time and make no changes to the personnel manual.
5. **New Projects for Approval: Cowles-Cleveland** presented three projects for board consideration as follows: two CREP projects (25 acres on Sapolil Rd and 10 on Lower Waitsburg Rd) and a project to restore a portion of a CREP project that was damaged by a fire. Brian Cochran of the SCC has given funding approval for the burned acreage; FSA will cover the cost of reinstalling the project and SCC will pay for removing damaged trees. **Alyson Buckley moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the two CREP projects and the restoration of the fire-damaged project, motion passed.**
Oosterhuis presented 2 screen projects previously approved by the VSP Work Group. These are a 50-100 gpm screen on the WW River and a screen for an orchard on Stone Creek. The projects are in the 1,000-dollar range. **Jim Kent moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to approve the two screen projects as presented, motion passed.**
Cowles Cleveland presented a project related to a previous district project near Dixie. The original off-site watering project was damaged in a flood. Glen Barber of NRCS helped develop a new solution to continue water access without using a water gap. **Alyson Buckley moved and Jim Kent**

seconded to approve the new Dixie water system project as presented, motion passed.

6. **Nature Conservancy: Byerley** presented her observations from a three-day tour with leadership from the Nature Conservancy, stakeholders, and experts regarding the Snake River Dams. The Nature Conservancy folk were especially impressed with the complexity of the system and that removal of the dams is not as straightforward as some would have it.
7. **Map Overview: Peterson** showed a county map online showing the locations of several district projects.

Program Updates:

Lynda Oosterhuis sent outreach letters to 40 landowners and about a dozen have responded. Landowners are interested in site clean-up and new plantings; neighbors are also interested. She plan site visits followed by funding applications. Of the four landowners with projects funded by Salmon Recovery funds, two are planting this fall and one project will need a contractor. She is finishing up the W.SARE project with the completed guides ready to post to the website.




Kayla Peterson said it is too late in the year to start Tree of Heaven eradication but the grant will be extended to next spring.

Annie Byerley is attending the Walla Walla 2050 meetings and trying to engage the irrigation community with this group. Site prep was done on Pike Peak with about 900 trees to be planted. She is watering recently planted projects with Kayla's help.

Joanna Cowles Cleveland mentioned that the work crew planned for three weeks in November can only work one week. The Snake River Salmon Funding Board is looking for a citizen volunteer to represent Walla Walla County. Labor shortages continues to be an issue.

With no further business on the agenda, at 7: 15 **Jeff Schulke moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Next meeting: ~~Dec. 12~~ Nov. 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the Sept. minutes as written,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To approve the October financial report,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To approve adding a plant sale policy as presented to the Internal Procedure Manual,	Motion: Buckley Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve two CREP projects and the restoration of the fire-damaged project,	Motion: Buckley Second: Kent Motion passed
To approve the WW River and Stone creek screen projects as presented,	Motion: Kent Second: Buckley Motion passed
To approve the new Dixie water system project as presented,	Motion: Buckley Second: Kent Motion passed
To adjourn the meeting,	Motion: Schulke Second: Buckley Motion passed