



Walla Walla County Conservation District

April 2023 Board Meeting

Date: April 10, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jesse McCaw

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Don Schwerin, Jeff Schulke, Alyson Buckley

Supervisor absent: none

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Allisa Carlson, SCC, Lindsey Williams, WWCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann, Grant Traynor, Kayla Peterson,

Members of the Public: Dan Milden

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

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

Minutes: The Board reviewed the March 13th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jim Kent to approve the March 13th board minutes as presented, motion passed.** The board reviewed the March 23rd Special Meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jim Kent to approve the March 23rd Special Meeting minutes as presented, motion passed**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the April Financial Report. Ahmann informed the board a previously approved check needed to be voided as some of the costs on the check had been paid via credit card. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the voiding of check 14647; motion passed.** After further review, **motion by Jim Kent and second by Alison Buckley to approve the April financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date April 10th 2023 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the April financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14648 to 14670, revenues 143,393.91; expenses 102,680.20; total all accounts \$155,494.90

1. **Partner Reports:** Krueger reported that sign-ups ended in March and Inflation Reduction Act pre-approval is moving forward. He noted the status reviews completed by district staff were excellent and the detailed notes allowed NRCS work to proceed much more smoothly. **Carlson** gave

legislative updates and invited board members to attend the WACD open forum meeting April 17th. Hadley was “voluntold” to be part of the executive search committee for the SCC open executive director position.

2. **Internal Audit: Ahmann** said the Annual Report is not yet complete but needs to be reviewed as part of the Internal Audit. Jim Kent and Don Schwerin volunteered to serve on the audit committee.
3. **Approve revised fish screen cost share: Traynor** explained that the original budget was based on a particular screen with a generous contingency amount added. However, the screen was not available and a more expensive one required. In addition, the landowner is on a fixed income and unable to pay the full 15% of the more expensive screen. **Jeff Schulke moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to increase the cost share amount for the screen by 314.26 and not raise the landowner’s obligation, motion passed.**
4. **Riparian project canceled, new project proposed:** Hadley explained that one of the original participants on the Yellowhawk project declined to pursue the project. Another landowner has expressed interest in installing a riparian buffer (near well 5 and Sturm street) **Jim Kent moved and Alyson Buckley seconded to substitute the new project as proposed as part of the Yellowhawk 4 project, motion passed.**
5. **Telework Policy:** Hadley explained the need for the policy as sometimes the job requires telework (e.g., FSA closes the office for budget reasons) and sometimes telework is requested by the employee. Hadley proposed a policy giving the district manager discretion when approving telework and specifies time teleworking should not be time spent managing dependent care. **Jeff Schulke moved and Jim Kent seconded to approve the policy as presented with minor changes to clarify the section on staff availability vis-à-vis child care, motion passed.**

Program Updates: Hadley described recent and upcoming outreach events. Thursday the 13th is the Riparian Workshop and other events were listed on her board report. There will be a ceremonial ribbon-cutting/tree planting event on Caldwell Creek at the end of April with city and other agency folks invited. A working group meeting will be held May 4th for Salmon Recovery Funding (Conservation Commission) The NRCS Local Work Group is meeting on the 21st to set local priorities for some NRCS funds. The Return to the River event will be May 13th. Hadley mentioned there was no Snake River Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting. Project tours are May 1, 2 and 3rd. Grant’s Coppei Creek grant application ranked second and will be funded.

Peterson announced she has accepted a position at the Columbia CD starting in June. She leaves to take over their Soil Health program. As a resident of Dayton, she looks forward to an end to her winter commute.

Dan Milden requested Annie Byerley contact him.

With no further business on the agenda, at 6:10 the meeting was adjourned without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Next meeting: May 8th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the March 13th board meeting minutes as written,

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To approve the March 23th Special Meeting minutes as written

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To approve voiding check 14647,

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To approve the April financial report,

Motion: Kent
Second: Buckley
Motion passed

To substitute a new project as proposed as part of the Yellowhawk 4 project,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Buckley
Motion passed

To approve a revised cost share amount for a fish screen project,

Motion: Schulke
Second: Buckley
Motion passed

To approve a telework policy as presented with minor changes to clarify the section on staff availability vis-à-vis child care

Motion: Schulke
Second: Kent
Motion passed