



Walla Walla County Conservation District

September 2023 Board Meeting

Date: Sept. 11, 2023

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent

Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Jeff Schulke

Supervisor absent: Jesse McCaw, Alyson Buckley

Other Agencies: Lindsey Williams, Agricultural and Natural Resources Center of Excellence WWCC; Vic Reeve, WWC Noxious Weed Control Board; Bryce Krueger, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Audrey Ahmann (Zoom), Grant Traynor, Jenny Freer, Joanna Cowles-Cleveland, Eila Chin, Cat Garza, Annie Byerley

Members of the Public: Dan M., Randal S., Deborah R., Margaret L.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.

Kent invited the public to comment; Dan seeking sources or tools for water efficiency including a cost/benefit analysis.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the July 10th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve the July 10th board minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the August and September Financial Reports. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve the August and September financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date Sept. 11 2023 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the Aug. financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14745 to 14782, revenues 298,498.75, and expenses 122,466.86; total all accounts \$270,031.98

As of this date Sept. 11 2023 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the Sept. financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14783 to 14801, revenues \$124,998.24, and expenses 102,838.06; total all accounts \$292,192.16

- 1. Partner Reports: Krueger (NRCS)** Reported that there is funding for projects such as general CSP, Forestry, and other potential projects excluding pest management with a deadline of October 20, 2023. **Williams**

The community college is going back to a strong Ag focus especially with classes starting at the end of September. The Ag Instructor will be teaching 2/3 of the time with 1/3 running a farm to fork program. Similar with the Ag Range instructor with 2/3 teaching and 1/3 managing the on-farm cattle with potential for onsite a.i. The Ag class will be partnering with the culinary students to supply them with fresh fruits and vegetables. **Hadley** updated the board with news that WDFW is hiring three new positions, WACD Southeast area has an upcoming meeting in October 26, and the SCC is in the process of hiring an executive member.

2. **Discussion of Invasive Species:** **Reeve** presented the processes of the Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control Board and steps that are needed from the public to succeed in solving weed control concerns. Members of the public shared concerns of poison hemlock in regards to controlling the spreading of this weed. A discussion of chemicals or digging it out ensued. Concerns will be brought to the next weed control board meeting. **Reeve** stated that partnership and funding are needed for effective eradication and knowledge sharing amongst the community. Palmer Amaranth was spotted two weeks ago.
3. **Audit Schedule:** **Freer** shared that the Audit for the years 2020 to 2022 is expected to be the first week of October. A board member will be notified. An exit meeting will commence when finalized.
4. **Request to approve SCC Addendums:** Sustainable Farms and Field funds for a dew-drop drill and Livestock technical assistance funds including workshops. **Jeff Schulke moved and Don Schwerin seconded to approve the SCC Addendums for Sustainable Farm and Field funds as presented, motion passed. Jeff Schulke moved and Don Schwerin seconded to approve the SCC Addendum for Livestock technical assistance funds as presented, motion passed.**
5. **Approval of grant applications for Ecology Centennial/319 Funding:** **Hadley** explained three projects that we are applying for construction funds through Ecology's funding source. The three projects are Touchet River at river mile 42 (below Waitsburg), Touchet River at river mile 35 (below Prescott), and Lower Mill Creek (above Wallula Ave). Designs were funded through the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and projects have been discussed several times over the past few years.
Jeff Schulke moved and Don Schwerin seconded to approve the grant applications as presented, motion passed.
6. **Review of grants submitted since last board meeting:** **Byerley** reviewed riparian plant propagation program partnership with Washington State

Penitentiary. The board reviewed the list and was in favor of staff continuing those efforts. **Chin, Garza, and Cowles-Cleveland** reviewed eight riparian projects around Walla Walla County. **Traynor** reviewed two VSP riparian projects. **Don Schwerin moved and Jeff Schulke seconded to approve grants as presented, motion passed.**

7. **Resolution to Southeast area WACD: Hadley** presented two resolutions 1) proposed promotion of CRP fuel breaks and 2) a reduction to the WACD board size with alt A and alt B. **After discussion, Jeff Schulke moved and Don Schwerin seconded to approve the resolutions to the Southeast Area WACD, motion passed as presented.**

8. **Discussion of solicitation, drought impacts, erosion monitoring: Hadley** asked for guidance from the WWCCD board regarding solicitation. The board mentioned it would be ok to reach out to adjacent parcels IF a neighbor contacted WWCCD first (good neighbor opportunity). Just calling to see if there are issues is a 'no go' **Also, it would be ok to get ahead of resources concerns provided it was brought up as 'opportunities' ...mentioned concerns regarding proper procedures for involving neighbors in conservation projects. Resolution needs further clarification.**

Drought impacts of late season declarations and what BMPs could be how this is impacting BMP's. Krueger offered some livestock deferral programs to offset these issues. Grazing incentives or other options can be processed through NRCS.

8)a. Steep Slope monitoring issues were discussed. Krueger believes RUSL 2 should be sufficient to prove the erosion in relation to watershed scale.

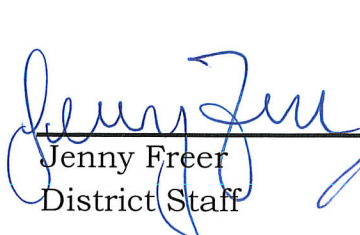
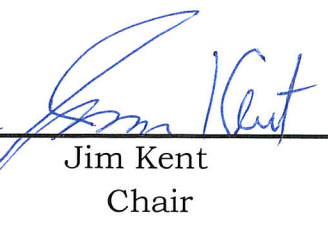
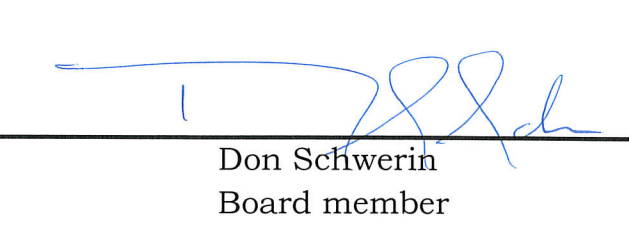
Farm Bill compliance requires a certain percent of residue coverage.

Transects to verify residue percent could help.

A time lapse of Walla Walla River at River Mile 35.5 was shown to the board.

With no further business on the agenda, at 8:13 the meeting was adjourned without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted,

		
Jenny Freer District Staff	Jim Kent Chair	Don Schwerin Board member

Next meeting: October 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

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| To approve the July 10 th board meeting minutes as written, | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |
| To approve the Aug. & Sept. financial report, | Motion: Schwerin
Second: Schulke
Motion passed |
| To approve the SCC Addendum for Sustainable Farm and Field funds received, as presented | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |
| To approve the SCC Addendum for Livestock technical assistance for funds received | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |
| To approve Grant applications for Ecology Centennial 319 as presented | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |
| To approve grants submitted since last board meeting, riparian projects, and VSP riparian projects, as presented | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |
| To approve Resolution to Southeast Area WACD, as presented | Motion: Schulke
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed |