



Walla Walla County Conservation District

December 2023 Board Meeting

Date: Dec. 11, 2023

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent Chair

Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Jesse McCaw, Alyson Buckley

Supervisor absent: Jeff Schulke

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS

Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer, Grant Traynor, Cat Garza, Joanna Cowles-Cleveland

Members of the Public: Dan M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jim Kent.

Kent invited the public to comment. No comments were made at this time.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the Nov. 13th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the Nov. 13th board minutes as presented, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the November Financial Reports. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the November financial reports and pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date Dec. 11 2023 the Board by a majority vote does approve for payment checks included in the Nov. financial reports and further described as follows: Checks 14857 to 14876, revenues \$68,041.55 and expenses \$255,165.62; total all accounts \$66,891.82.

New Business:

- 1. Partner Reports: Krueger** stated that there is a large EQIP and CSP workload right now for the local office. New ACT NOW program has a strong nutrient management and forestry focus. New Liming projects could be funded through EQIP. **Hadley** shared WSU Extension updates regarding one-on-one soil health producer meetings and the success it is having across the county. Hadley also shared that WDFW staff Mr. Martin resigned and moved to the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board as executive director. Hadley then shared the WACD communication letter summarizing activities throughout the year. The SCC's new director is settling in well. The SCC staffing is increasing up to forty-five very soon.

2. **Annual review of CREP hold down rates: Cowles-Cleveland** presented the new proposed hold down rates. These amounts come from communication directly with contractors and landowners. **Motion by Alyson Buckley and second by Don Schwerin to approve the CREP hold down rates as presented: motion passed.**
3. **Request to appoint an agent to receive claims for damages: Hadley** shared the importance of having a claims agent and listed Jenny Freer as the agent. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Alyson Buckley to approve Jenny Freer as claims agent for the Walla Walla County Conservation District: motion passed.**
4. **Request to Approve 2024 Proposed Budget: Hadley/Freer** shared the proposed budget based on 2023 actual monies spent and future projects that are going to be completed in 2024. **Motion by Alyson Buckley and second by Don Schwerin to approve the proposed 2024 budget as presented: motion passed.**
5. **Review of Equipment Rates: Hadley** reviewed the equipment rates spreadsheet and how the numbers were relevant to the district. Certain projects require quotes on equipment and other tools if a landowner is going to do the work themselves. This list will save the district time while also meeting requirements for reimbursement.

Program Updates:

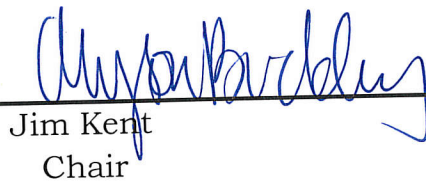
1. **A.) Summary of Washington Assoc. of Conservation District annual meeting:**
Hadley attended this year's meeting in Wenatchee. Jon Wyss gave a shout-out to the Walla Walla FSA for a job well done. A summary was provided in the board packet.
- B.) Gardena Farms District #13 efforts: Hadley** explained how the small watershed PL-566 will help us get other funding sources in to move forward with this project.
- C.) Grant application Lower Mill Creek (Wallula Avenue up to Bunchgrass Lane) NFPP: Hadley** would like to apply for federal funds through the National Fish Passage Program. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Alyson Buckley to approve the application to the National Fish Passage Program: motion passed.**
- D.) Program Updates: Hadley** used Google Earth to show where the potential project is located on Lower Mill Creek. Also described how two letters of intent have been submitted for a downstream project from the previous location. Dry Creek has

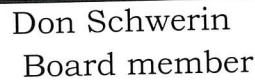
active erosion on a mature CREP project. The Terry Hussman grant, through the Department of Ecology, could be an option to source funding for this project. WDFW provided a conceptual design and stated that it would need more planting.

Board went into executive session at 5:25 and returned from executive session at 5:51 without a decision made. The meeting was adjourned at this time without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Jim Kent
Chair


Don Schwerin
Board member

Next meeting: January 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the Nov. 13th board meeting minutes as written,

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve the Nov. financial report, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Buckley
Motion passed

To approve the date/location for the annual meeting and election, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve the CREP hold down rates, as presented

Motion: Buckley
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve resolution to appoint new claims agent, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Buckley
Motion passed

To approve 2024 proposed budget, as presented

Motion: Buckley
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve grant application for Lower Mill Creek through NFPP, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Buckley
Motion passed