



Walla Walla County Conservation District

January 2024 Board Meeting

Date: Jan. 8, 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Alyson Buckley, Acting Chair

Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Jesse McCaw

Supervisors absent: Jeff Schulke, Jim Kent

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS, Allisa Carlson, SCC (via Zoom)

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

Members of the Public: Dan M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Alyson Buckley.

Buckley invited the public to comment. Public comments were taken.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the Dec. 11th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the Dec. 11th board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the December Financial Reports.

No motion necessary, per training received 12/14/2023

As of this date Jan. 8 2024 the Board reviewed the Dec. financial reports and no further discussion was had: Checks 14877 to 14897, revenues \$310,601.39 and expenses \$130,404.70; total of bank accounts \$247,088.51.

As of Jan. 9, 2024 we will be providing our financials by month instead of by board meeting.

As of this date Jan. 8 2024 the Board reviewed the Dec. financial reports and no further discussion was had: Checks 14865 to 14887, revenues \$349,559.42 and expenses \$261,219.97; total of bank accounts \$234,216.38. (Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Reports: Krueger** stated that preapprovals for EQIP will be selected on February 19, 2024. NRCS is in the process of getting contracts promoted for CSP. **Carlson** gave updates on the new directors' progress stating everything is going well and they are taking on a policy role for the state. RCCP is fully funded and a summary budget spreadsheet will be coming soon. **Hadley** shared that the representative from

WSU Extension should be attending Walla Walla County Conservation Districts annual meeting.

2. **Quarterly update of NRCS office lease agreement: Cowles-Cleveland** shared that we are under our lease agreement amount but these tasks are driven by NRCS requests for services which are contributed to our lease.
3. **WWCCD Annual Meeting review and election update: Hadley** shared that there are three pesticide credits for Oregon residents and three pesticide credits for Washington residents during the annual meeting. **Garza** shared that board member Alyson will not be able to continue after her term. Election will still be held and excepting write in's as our future board member.
4. **Request for pre-approval of meal and refreshments for WWCCD annual meeting: Freer** shared the need for a Blanket Meeting Expense Authorization with a budgeted amount of \$1,300 for annual meeting meals and refreshments. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the Expense Authorization as presented: motion passed.**
5. **Request for Two board supervisors to be on the Performance Committee: Hadley** requested that two board members volunteer to be on the committee to conduct annual employee reviews. Alyson Buckley and Don Schwerin agreed to be on the performance committee.
6. **Update on 2024 budget estimates: Freer/Hadley** shared that after review of all current financials our 2024 budget no longer is showing a deficit.

Program Updates:

A.) Agricultural Burn Permits: Hadley of behalf of Klundt shared the Burn Report for Fall 2023. (Final fees will be from Ecology in a couple of weeks)

Field burn acres: 18897 Spot burn acres: 4 Pile Burn Tons: 980.14

Refunds for acres not burned: 3719 8 refund requests received

Field burns have two seasons January 1 to June 30, and July 1 to December 31. Spot burns are on the calendar year January 1 to December 31. Pile burns are for one year July 1 to June 30. Refunds are for acres not burned. Field burns generate most refund requests.

B.) District Operations: Hadley shared that WSDA will host a virtual Palmer amaranth presentation on January 17. This is within the pigweed family and resistant to several herbicide groups. For outreach the WWCCD Newsletter was distributed in December. The USPS changed the cost of bulk mailings (nearly doubling the postage)

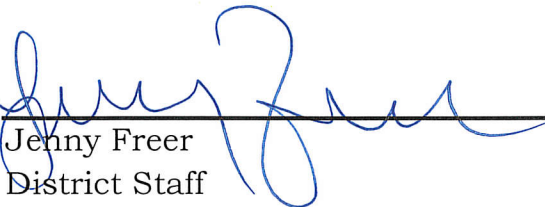
effective January 1, 2024. We reduced the physical mailing list by half (to around 350) by comparing names on mailing addresses to names on Walla Walla County parcel data and eliminating recipients outside Walla Walla County and adjacent counties (such as TX, CA, NY, Spokane Co, King County...). We requested an additional \$15k in technical assistance (labor) through Irrigation Efficiencies to help with water related tasks through June 2024.

Joint Agency Meetings:

Walla Walla County 'Water Conservancy Board': Byerley reported, I was asked to join the Walla Walla County Water Conservancy Board at the end of last year and I accepted. I will be joining Bob Berger and Joel Huesby as board members. This board may provide a faster option for processing application for change or transfer of a water right. Water conservancy boards process change applications and issue records of decision for Ecology's review. Then Ecology makes the final decision to either affirm, reverse, or modify the board's decision. There is a total of 32 hours of training to join the board initially and open government training. There are then 8 hours of training yearly as well. It is a 6-year commitment. Meetings occur on the first Wednesday at 2 PM and it is held on Zoom.

Board went into executive session at 5:25 and returned from executive session at 5:45 without a decision made. The meeting was adjourned at this time without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: February 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the Dec. 11th board meeting minutes as written,

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve the Blanket Meeting Expense Authorization, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed