



Walla Walla County Conservation District

June 2024 Board Meeting

Date: June 10, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Chair

Supervisors Present: Jeff Schulke, Don Schwerin

Supervisors absent: Jesse McCaw

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Lindsey Williams, WWCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer, & Joanna Cowles-Cleveland

Members of the Public: Sarah M. in person, and Dan M., Alani N., Joash J., Jonathan R., and Garret by zoom.

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

Kent invited the public to comment. Public comments were made.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the May 13th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve the May 13th board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the May Financial Reports. **Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date June 10 2024 the Board reviewed the May financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 14946 to 14965, revenues \$299,429.37 and expenses \$374,325.46; total of bank accounts \$340,865.39.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Reports:** **Hadley** shared that Tuesday June 18th; WSU extension will be holding a "Wheat Academy Road Show". **Krueger** shared that NRCS CSP closed last week and they are working on ranking them. CRP just started. ACT NOW funding was increased for liming practices. Finally, Walla Walla office just hired a new staff member, Ryan Foley, as a resource specialist. **Williams** shared that they are still looking for a Dean of Workforce at WWCC. The Farm-to-Fork program is excelling. A new Dean of Viticulture/Enology was hired.

- 2. Discussion of Annual Review of Board Effectiveness: Hadley** started the conversation of how the board feels about their role within the board. Board members think they are effective and follow the CAAP guidelines. Further discussion divulged that they board feels they are a governing board not an operating board and they find that appropriate.

A. Board Rotation is as follows:

Jeff Schulke_ Chair
Don Schwerin_ Vice Chair
Jesse McCaw_ Secretary
Jim Kent_ Treasurer

- 3. Resolution acknowledging vacancy in mid-term elected position: Hadley** presented the following resolution for consideration.

"As of June 10, 2024, the Walla Walla County Conservation District acknowledges a mid-term vacancy in an elected position with the WWCCD Board of Supervisors. Notice of the vacancy shall be published on June 13, 2024. The four-week application window will occur between June 20 to July 18, 2024. Eligible candidates must be a registered voter in the unincorporated areas of Walla Walla County and who resides within the county (not within city limits).

RCW 89.08.160 requires two of the three elected supervisors to be landowners or operators of a farm. This mid-term vacancy may be filled by a registered voter and is not restricted by landownership or farm management.

There is no option for party preference in conservation district elections. Candidate statements are not allowed."

Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to acknowledge vacancy of an elected position resolution, as presented: motion passed.

- 4. Annual review of 'Vendor List' for routine expenses: Freer** shared that WWCCD's Vendor List had not been updated since 2007. This list is for routine purchases to make sure staff knows the preferred vendors for these scenarios. After discussion, Walla Walla Transmission was added as a vendor for vehicle repairs.

Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve the update vendor list for routine expenses, as presented: motion passed.

- 5. Review and Approve FY25 Addendum with SCC: Hadley** shared that there are three SCC grants that need approval for addendums for FY25; Irrigation Efficiencies, CREP, and IMP. These three grants are WWCCD's customary budget sources with expected increases for the upcoming year.

Motion by Don S and second by Jeff Schulke to approve the FY25 Addendum with SCC, as presented: motion passed.

- 6. Request to approve changing WWCCD's Pay Date: Freer** shared the need to change the current pay date from the 1st of the month to the fifth of the month starting on the first pay day in January 2025. The current pay period will remain the same, the first day of the month to the last day of the month.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jeff Schulke to approve changing the pay date in January of 2025 to the fifth of every month, as presented: motion passed.

- 7. Discussion and Approval of July 2024 board meeting schedule:** Hadley discussed with the board that while she will be out of the country, would a July meeting be feasible? After further discussion, the board decided that a July board meeting would not be necessary. A special meeting could be held with a 24-hr notice. The next meeting will be in September due to August already being a non-meeting month.
Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve cancelling the 2024 July board meeting: motion passed.

- 8. Discussion of Area Engineering:** Hadley shared comments with the board in regard to our Area Engineer. After discussion, the board concluded that this topic needs to be put on hold until further research is done.

- 9. Discussion of Irrigation Efficiencies project:** Hadley shared the rules regarding associates and staff receiving funds. We currently have a staff member that has 1.92% ownership of an operation that is looking to receive cost share funds through the SCC's Irrigation Efficiencies grant. This project would not exceed the RCW 42.23.030 rules previously stated with staff members.

Motion by Jeff Schulke and second by Don Schwerin to approve the Bye-Far 2 project application as presented: motion passed.

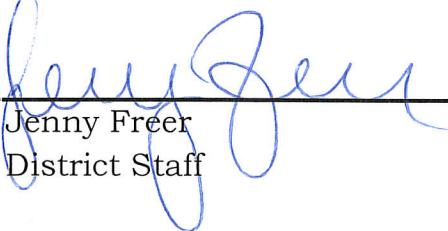
Program Updates:

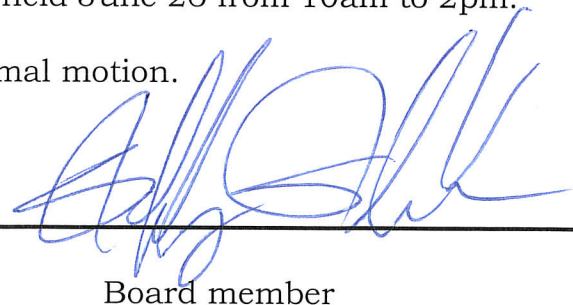
A.) District Operations: Hadley shared highlights from the past month including Envirothon success.

Joint Agency Meetings: Nothing to report at this time

Misc. Discussion: Jeff K. retirement party will be held June 26 from 10am to 2pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 without a formal motion.
Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: September 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the May 13 th board meeting minutes as written,	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To review the May Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve resolution for vacancy mid-term, as presented	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve updated Vendor List, as presented	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve FY25 Addendum with SCC, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve the change of WWCCD's Pay Date, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Schulke Motion passed
To approve cancelling the 2024 July Board meeting, as presented	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve the Bye-Far 2 IEGP application, as presented	Motion: Schulke Second: Schwerin Motion passed