

Walla Walla County Conservation District

September 2024 Board Meeting

Date: Sept. 9, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jeff Schulke, Chair

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Don Schwerin, Jesse McCaw

Supervisors absent: None

Other Agencies: Allisa Carlson, SCC

Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer, Annie Byerley

Members of the Public: Cindy D., Beth D., and Peter L. (zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Don Schwerin.

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

Minutes: The Board reviewed the June 10th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jim Kent to approve the June 10th board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the June Financial Reports. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date September 9th 2024 the Board reviewed the June financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 14966 to 14988, revenues \$122,353.06 and expenses \$284,120.53; total of bank accounts \$179,097.92.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the July Financial Reports. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Jim Kent to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date September 9th 2024 the Board reviewed the July financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 14989 to 15012, revenues \$223,216.58 and expenses \$261,551.05; total of bank accounts \$140,763.45.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

Financial Reports: The board reviewed the August Financial Reports. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to pay the bills, motion passed.**

As of this date September 9th 2024 the Board reviewed the August financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15013 to 15027, revenues \$680,339.44 and expenses \$301,038.97; total of bank accounts \$520,063.92.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Reports: Hadley** gave an update of WSU Extension that there are plans in January for an education day. Hadley shared WDFW has a new permitting staff member, Jackie McCool. Hadley shared on behalf of WACD that the SE Area meeting will be held in Pullman on October 17th. **Carlson, SCC**, shared that the SCC is continuing to grow. RGP and FH officially have staff leading these programs. Budget packages went to the State last week with a request for 20 million for CTA.
- 2. Review and approve grants received: Hadley** shared that WWCCD received an irrigation efficiency grant approving the installation of a 4th pivot for 2024.
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the reception of funds for a pivot through Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program, as presented: motion passed.

Hadley shared that WWCCD received an award of funding for the Windrow/Riparian project through SFF.

Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the reception of funds for the Windrow/Riparian project through SFF, as presented: motion passed.

- 3. Review and approval of grants applied for: Hadley** shared that three grants are requiring approval to be submitted. One is a WaterSMART planning grant and the other two are through the Department of Ecology's 319 Non-Point program. An additional reminder of 5 applications submitted under Ecology Office of Columbia River, Walla Walla 2050 legislation line item funding.

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Planning, this grant is in conjunction and on behalf of the Touchet Levy Group with funding through the Bureau of Reclamation. This grant would pay for a facilitator for Flood risk reduction and habitat enhancement partnership.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the application to the WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Planning as presented: motion passed.

Touchet Combined RM 35 and Design RM33 through Ecology's 319 Non-Point. **Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Jim Kent to approve the project and application to the Department of Ecology's 319 Non-Point as presented: motion passed.**

Lower Mill Creek Construction through Ecology's 319 Non-Point program for additional construction costs

Motion by Jim Kent and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the application to the Department of Ecology's 319 Non-Point as presented: motion passed.

Suite of Office of Columbia River applications

Lower Mill Creek Construction: construction funds

Touchet RM42 restoration: construction

Heritage Gardens

Gardena Farms District #13 Pine Creek Siphon: construction funds

Riparian Maintenance for existing projects

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Jim Kent to approve the applications to the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River (OCR) as presented: motion passed.

4. **Discussion of Holiday's falling on the next two board meetings:** Hadley shared that the October and November board meetings will fall on federal holidays and asked the board if they wish to move the dates to non-holiday days. The board shared that they would like to move meetings: October board meeting will be held on Tuesday October 15th and November's board meeting will be held on Thursday November 14th. Since these meeting will deviate from the 2nd Monday of the month, both meetings must be advertised as "special" meetings.
5. **Discussion of FSA mandatory requirement of signing CRP contracts:** Hadley shared that the old manual stated that the conservation district 'may' sign off as a technical service provider on CRP contracts. The updated manual now states the conservation district 'will' sign off as a technical service provider. Hadley also shared that all contracts need to be signed off by WWCCD by September 16th, 2024. Hadley offered a disclaimer statement to be added to the signature page and a letter to attach to each contract to hold the district harmless/waive liability from these contracts
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the district manager of the Walla Walla County Conservation District to sign CRP contracts with stipulations as presented: motion passed.

Program Updates:

- A.) Summer activities Coppei 7, Mill Creek FBD, & Coppei Bridge:** Hadley shared updates on the three large projects happening during the months of July through September.
- B.) District Operations:** Hadley reviewed district operations over the past three months. New cell phones, trainings, and project progress. Outreach updates include the summer newsletter going out and upcoming events with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

Joint Agency Meetings: Save the dates for September 21 for a Riparian Maintenance Workshop and October 10 for the Watershed Open House. Past meetings include a tour of Walla Walla County irrigation areas, RTT meetings, presentation at the Board of County Commissioners, and many more.

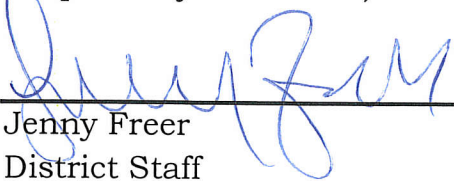
The WWCCD Board of Supervisors paused the public meeting at 7:12 pm and went into Executive session for 60 minutes to review the performance of public employees (4 different topics) per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) or (1)(i).

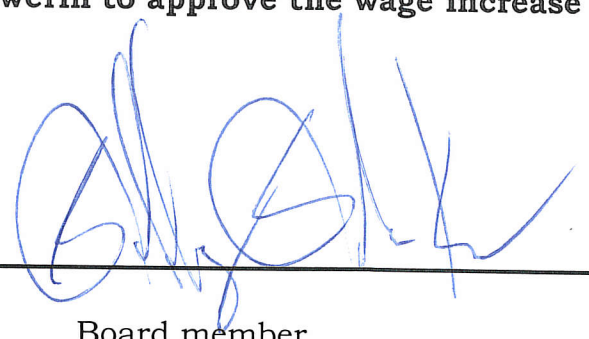
The Board of supervisors returned from executive session at 7:50 and called the meeting to order.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the wage increase for a select staff as presented: motion passed.

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next 'SPECIAL' meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the June 10th board meeting minutes as written,

Motion: Schwerin
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To review the June Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To review the July Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To review the August Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

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To approve the Irr-eff 4th Pivot project for 2024, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve the Windrow/Riparian Project, as presented

Motion: Kent
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve the WaterSmart Application, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve the Touchet Combined RM 35 and Design RM 33 application, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Kent
Motion passed

To approve the Lower Mill Creek Construction Application, as presented

Motion: Kent
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve the Ecology OCR suite of 5 projects, as presented

Motion: Jesse McCaw
Second: Jim Kent
Motion passed

To approve the mandatory signing of CRP Contracts, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve the wage increase for a select staff, as presented

Motion: Jesse McCaw
Second: Don Schwerin
Motion passed