



Walla Walla County Conservation District
February 2025 Board Meeting

Date: Feb. 10, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jeff Schulke, Chair

Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Jesse McCaw

Supervisors absent: Jim Kent

Other Agencies: Bryce K. NRCS

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

Members of the Public: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jeff Schulke.

No public comments were taken.

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

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

As of this date February 10th 2025 the Board reviewed the January financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15098 to 15117, revenues \$40,328.64 and expenses \$163,661.70; total of bank accounts \$329,268.02.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

- 1. Partner Reports: Hadley** shared that the NRCS Snake River Team Local Work Group meeting is being held this Thursday February 13 in Dayton. Hadley also shared that the Washington State Department of Agriculture has a pesticide seminar for Bulletins Live and how to report the data. Walla Walla County Conservation District is holding mini farmer session this month in Touchet, Walla Walla, Waitsburg and Prescott. **Krueger** shared that NRCS is currently ranking EQIP contracts and will be moving on to CSP next. IRA funding is questionable at the moment, and further details will be given when the department has them.
- 2. CREP Update: Cowles-Cleveland** shared what information has been passed between the multiple partners but landowners seem to have the most information passed on by

the documents they are receiving. The next step is to wait for conservation plans to be finalized through FSA's remapping program, which will allow landowners to make comprehensive decisions from there. It has been asked of WWCCD to write a letter to the state Executive Director of FSA and cc congressional members.

3. **Request to Convert an Employees Classification: Hadley** shared that the district would like to reclassify former VSP coordinator, Grant T, to an on-call employee. This will allow communication and information to be shared between Grant and the new VSP coordinator in regards to reporting standards.

Motion by Don Schwerin and Second by Jesse McCaw to change the classification of Grant T.'s employment status to On-Call, as presented: motion Passed.

4. **Request to Approve Light Refreshments increase for Forestry Winter School: Hadley** shared that WWCCD's current blanket authorizations for light refreshments do not meet the needs of the Forestry Winter School. The request is up to \$330 due to the number of attendees scheduled to participate.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the light refreshment request for the Forestry Winter School as presented: motion passed.

5. **Request to Delegate Signature Authority for DES Contract: Hadley** shared that Department of Enterprise Services is requiring a blanket authorization that would allow Renee Hadley, as the District Manager, to be signed on behalf of the district. Due to the fact that the board approves all applications for projects prior to submission and all funding for projects once approved, the unlimited blanket authorization for Renee to sign on behalf of the board is appropriate. This authorization is not transferrable to another staff.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve Renee Hadley as the delegate signatory for DES contracts as presented: motion passed.

6. **Review and approve new projects: Hadley** shared information regarding three new projects and/or applications.

- a. **Resolution to approve Snake River Salmon Recovery grant application for Walla Walla River Mile 20:** Hadley shared that an application for engineering design is needed for instream structures. This would be for 1.25 miles of instream habitation the lower Walla Walla River and to update the Lower Walla Walla Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan from 2014. The request is for \$315,000.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the request to apply for the funds through the Snake River Salmon Recovery grant, as presented: motion passed.

b. Request to apply for funds through the Irrigation Efficiency program:

Hadley presented that WWCCD would like to apply for funds for a VFD pump and improvements for Handlines. This ask is for 20k.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the request to apply for Irrigation Efficiency funds through the SCC grant, as presented: motion passed.

- c. Funds for Heritage Garden technical assistance:** Hadley and Cowles-Cleveland shared the Irrigation Efficiency has created funding opportunities for the Heritage Garden program. This program allows for landowners to lessen water usage by using drought resistant native plants.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the request to apply for technical assistance funds through the Irrigation Efficiency grant, as presented: motion passed.

- 7. Internal Audit Scheduling:** Freer shared that there is a need for two board members to complete an internal audit prior to submitting the Annual Report to the State Auditors Office. Jeff Schulke and Jesse McCaw agreed to complete the internal audit on February 24, 2025 at 9 am.
- 8. Summary/Review of WWCCD's Annual Meeting:** Hadley shared feedback on our annual meeting with positive reviews of the technical panel and praising of the food. A conversation was had about one of the speakers stating that the Fire District has veto power on burn decisions based on their capacity. Hadley will reach out to the Department of Ecology to get further clarification on this matter.
- 9. Review and Select third party to overhaul & update WWCCD's website to meet ADA compliance:** Hadley shared two proposals that were received and a discussion on the difference of the two were had.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to move forward with the proposal presented by KRCreative Strategies to update WWCCD's website, as presented: motion passed.

- 10. Motion to approve WWCCD paying for GIS:** Hadley shared that previously WWCCD were given permissions to use GIS under another Conservation District. Unfortunately, that is no longer an option. The cost for GIS is \$2,600 per year. The District using this program for CREP and VSP.

Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve the District paying for GIS for operational use, as presented: motion passed.

Follow-up from Previous Meetings:

- 1. Policy Review and Revision of Clients with Outstanding Accounts: Hadley** shared a proposed update to the 2006 policy regarding landowners past performance. Hadley wishes to maintain the current policy plus an addition of the Right to Refuse Service guidelines.
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to adopt the proposed policy and add to the existing policy, as presented: motion passed.
- 2. Map overlap rainfall sampling and weather station collaboration: Hadley** delivered the gathered information that was asked about from previous meetings. A comparison was given of the two options we have for weather stations; AgWeatherNet and Weather Underground. The WSU ones would give us scientific data. Missing locations are at Dry Creek and Dixie that would benefit the most. The board ask if we could look at funding from the Climate Commitment Act.

Program Updates:


- A.) District Operations: Hadley** reviewed district operations including staff updates, outreach efforts, and upcoming partner meetings.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: None

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: Monday, Mar. 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the January 13 th board meeting minutes, as written	Motion: McCaw Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To review the January Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve conversion of employees' classification as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To approve light refreshments authorization for Winter Forestry School, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve Renee Hadley as a delegate authority signer for DES contracts, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To approve applying for funding for RM 20 Engineering Design, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To approve the application for VFD funds, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Schwerin Motion passed
To approve applying for technical assistance funds for the heritage garden program, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To review and select a third party for ADA compliance on website, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To review and approve policy changes for non-compliant landowners, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: McCaw Motion passed
To approve the subscription for GIS, as presented	Motion: McCaw Second: Schwerin Motion passed