



Walla Walla County Conservation District
April 2025 Board Meeting

Date: April 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jeff Schulke, Chair

Supervisors Present: Jim Kent, Don Schwerin, Jesse McCaw (via Phone)

Supervisors absent:

Other Agencies: Allisa Carlson, SCC (via Zoom)

Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer

Members of the Public: Matt Williams

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jeff Schulke.

Schulke invited the public to comment. There were none.

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

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

As of this date April 14th 2025 the Board reviewed the March financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15138 to 15156 and 9 EFTs, revenues \$243,608.80 and expenses \$183,073.20; total of bank accounts \$350,526.18.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

1. Partner Updates:

- a. NRCS: Hadley** shared that the Snake River NRCS team is going through staff restructuring with the voluntary reduction option being taken by twelve staff members within the Eastern region.
- b. SCC: Carlson** shared that there is a lot of uncertainty at the state level right now. The House and Senate have both released their proposals for the State Conservation Commission. The SCC requested 89.8 million for capital and 46.7 million for operating funds. Capital funding is looking more stable across the board while the operating funding is challenging to find an agreement. The grants manual is available for review and the SCC is looking for feedback. The program guidelines are out for review as well.

2. **Review of Quarterly Lease Agreement Contributions:** Hadley shared on Cowles-Cleveland's behalf the quarterly progress for the first three months of 2025. These amounts accumulate from cultural resource reviews that are paid for by the district on behalf of NRCS. For the first quarter of 2025 our in-kind contribution was \$13,958.70.
3. **Request to approve new projects as presented:**
 - a. **Applying for grant funding through the Outdoor Learning program:** Hadley shared that this is a continuation of our current Growing Minds: Outdoor Education Verle Kieser grant that we received for 2024.
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve applying for the Outdoor Learning grant, as presented: motion passed.
 - b. **Applying for grant funding through our partners of US Fish and Wildlife for Lower Mill Creek Construction:** Hadley shared that the application would be matching funds with a current grant through the Dept. of Ecology for the Lower Mill Creek.
Motion by Jesse McCaw and second by Don Schwerin to approve applying for matching funds for Lower Mill Creek project, as presented: motion passed.
4. **Request to Approve the Annual Financial Report for 2024 and for submittal to the SAO:** Freer shared that the Annual Financial Report is ready to be submitted. Freer asked if there was any discussion that was needed; no questions were asked. Hadley shared that an error was found on the SAOs side where a specific button was clicked but it would register the answer below.
Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Jesse McCaw to approve the Annual Financial Report and submit it to the SAO, as presented: motion passed.
5. **Request to Review/Edit/and Approve the FY26 Annual-Plan-of-Work:** Hadley shared the annual plan of work with the board and questions were asked of wind erosion and pH., and where to put the concerns of soil health into the guidelines with a process on how to get this data.
This request is tabled for now until further edits can be made.

Program Updates:

- A.) District Operations:** Hadley reviewed district operations including staff updates, outreach efforts, and upcoming save the dates. First discussion was on the retirement of Jeff Schulke from the board. A party will be held in his honor at the May 12th board meeting. Matt W. will be an official board member at the June board meeting. Hadley also shared that with funding received earlier this year, 46 soil test kits were obtained to be shared with public at four local events. Hadley also shared the SRSRB scoring guidelines and where our projects fall within the expectations.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: NA

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the March 10th board meeting minutes as written

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

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

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve applying for Outdoor Learning grant, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed

To approve applying for matching funds for Lower Mill Creek, as presented

Motion: McCaw
Second: Schwerin
Motion passed

To approve the submittal of the 2024 Annual Financial Report, as presented

Motion: Schwerin
Second: McCaw
Motion passed