

Walla Walla County Conservation District
June 2025 Board Meeting

Date: June 9, 2025

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: In person and via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Jim Kent, Chair

Supervisors Present: Don Schwerin, Matt Williams (zoom)

Supervisors absent: Jessee McCaw

Other Agencies: Bryce Krueger, NRCS; Jennie Weathered, Department of Ecology

Also present: Renee Hadley, Jenny Freer

Members of the Public: None

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

Kent invited the public to comment. There were none.

Minutes: The Board reviewed the May 8th Special meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the May 8 special meeting minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

Minutes: The Board reviewed the May 12th board meeting minutes. **Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the May 12 board minutes as presented, no discussion, motion passed.**

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

As of this date June 9th 2025 the Board reviewed the May financial reports with no further discussion: Checks 15187 to 15207 and 9 EFTs, revenues \$94,158.36 and expenses \$345,020.81; total of bank accounts \$120,762.75.

(Total Matches Springbrook)

New Business:

1. Partner Updates:

- a. NRCS: Krueger** shared that new applications are in the obligate stage. IRA funds have concluded. Staff is working on CREP and other CRP programs. Western Regional Conservationist will be visiting Friday the 13th of June.
- b. Department of Ecology: Weathered** shared a PowerPoint indicating that five pollutants have been found in Walla Walla County with clean up plans being developed for the watershed. Remaining conversation was had about approaches/solutions for current windshield surveys on in-field ditches. Hadley will send Ecology's feedback for non-point plan to the Board.

- 2. Request to review and approve Master Contract with SCC:** Hadley shared that the SCC Master Contract will be in affect from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the Master Contract with the SCC, as presented: motion passed.

- a. Addendums for CREP, IMP, and Irr-eff.** Hadley shared that estimated CREP TA amounts would be \$104,998 and Irrigation efficiencies is at \$11,000. annually. IMP has been reduced for the FY26-27 to \$126,713.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve addendums for CREP, IMP, and Irr-eff, as presented: motion passed.

- b. Addendums for NRI.** Hadley shared an estimated biennial budget of \$107,000 with projects set aside for these funds.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the addendum for NRI, as presented: motion passed.

- c. Annual re-sign of Authorized Signature Form.** Hadley shared that the SCC needs an updated authorized signature form on file each biennium.

- 3. Request to approve District Cost Share Resolution & Cooperator Labor Rate:** Hadley shared that each biennium the board needs to determine the cost share rate for landowners and the districts portion of cost share projects. This resolution also includes the cooperator labor rate. This is the rate for landowner's time working on their own cost share projects.

Resolution 2025-03 Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve an 85% cost share rate and a \$25/per hour cooperator labor rate, as presented: motion passed.

- 4. Request to approve new projects as presented.**

- a. Addition to Maintenance District Implemented Projects.** Hadley shared on behalf of Cowles-Cleveland that adds up to 23-24 landowners with 90 new acres added the riparian grant program maintenance application.
- b. Cottonwood Creek Riparian-** Hadley shared that the planting of willow whips would help concerned landowners along Cottonwood Creek. This project would be funded through the Riparian Grant Program.
- c. Yellowhawk Creek Riparian and Instream Log Structures:** Hadley shared that the District would like to partner with Kooskooski Commons to continue work along Yellowhawk Creek installing log structures and do riparian work.

This is a friendly amendment to the previously approved Riparian Grant program ask.

Motion by Don Schwerin and second by Matt Williams to approve the three projects through the riparian grant program, as presented: motion passed.

- 5. Request to Review and Approve Selection of Employees Medical Benefits:** **Hadley** shared a review of the medical/dental/vision program costs that we currently have along with a side by side of three options due to policy increases.

Motion by Matt Williams and second by Don Schwerin to approve staying with our current program and accepting the 10% rate increase, as presented: motion passed.

- 6. Rotation of Board of Supervisors: Jim Kent, Chairman; Don Schwerin, Vice-Chair; Jesse McCaw, Secretary; Matt Williams, Treasurer. The board member position is vacant at this time.**

- 7. Self-evaluation of Board of Supervisors is postponed until next month.**

Program Updates:


- A.) District Operations:** **Hadley** shared a copy of the district operations report which summarizes the above grant applications along with upcoming trainings and partner meetings.

Misc. Discussion and Public Comments: Five applicants for District Manager position have been received and will be reviewed by Don and Matt for priority screening.

Meeting adjourned without a formal motion at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jenny Freer
District Staff


Board member

Next meeting: Monday, July 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Motions:

To approve the May 8 th special board meeting minutes as written	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve the May 12 th meeting minutes as written	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To review the May Financial Reports and approve paying the bills, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve Master Contract with the SCC, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve addendums for CREP, Implementation, & Irrigation Efficiencies, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve the addendum for NRI, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve an 85% cost share rate and a \$25/per hour labor rate, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve new projects for Riparian Grant Program, as presented	Motion: Schwerin Second: Williams Motion passed
To approve selection of employee medical benefits which is staying with current benefit, as presented	Motion: Williams Second: Schwerin Motion passed