Attendees
Supervisors: Jerry Scheele, Randy James, Jaki Shrauger, Tom Miller
Absent: Wendy Knopp
Associate Supervisors:
SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Erica Johnson, Ty Meyer, Eric Choker, Garth Davis, Cori Turntine, Jeannie Jesseph,
Guests: Rich Edlund, NRCS; Mike Baden,WSCC.

Agenda
Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at noon and led the pledge of allegiance, and presented the agenda with the addition of an executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 to discuss the performance of a public employee.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the agenda with addition of executive session. Motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the June Board meeting were previously distributed.
Motion Shrauger/James to approve the June Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Auditor Jaki Shrauger read through the Treasurer’s Report. Prior to the meeting she verified all the adjusted balances and all accounts matched. Board members asked questions about vendors and amounts that didn’t seem familiar. Joel’s Lawn Care now has the contract for this property and the 8th property. There was an extra dash in the EFT listing that was confusing.


Motion James/Miller to accept the June Treasurer’s Report with the corrected EFT and July Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY
Vicki Carter introduced our new employee Jeannie Jesseph who will be helping with grants and HR duties. Jilla Loan is now officially retired.

WSCC Budget Update
Baden described the frantic work that they have been doing to provide 15+ budget packages that the commission will select from or combine, and ultimately decide which ones to take forward. In the last biennium we didn’t get any new packages funded. In August they will decide which packages will be submitted to the Office of Financial Management in September. Many of the packages would benefit SCD and our programs. June 30 marked the close of the fiscal year. The new maximum requests for implementation grant funding is now $90,000. Submit projects by July 25. Report of Accomplishments is due August 24.

**Governance Culture**

**Board position Elections**
Postponed until August when all board members are present.

**Financial Report**

Cori Turntine described our current budget position in receivables and vouchering. Looking at general budget targets, we are in line with where we expected to be. The Education Department is at 95% of revenues because Stacey Selcho has hosted so many successful workshops. The trees for resale budget expense may be amended to be higher to include deposits on 2019 trees that get ordered in the fall. Carter has been talking to our bank about using a line of credit to fund some SRF loans as we wait for our upcoming contract; Department of Ecology (DOE) gives prior approval to use funds while contracts are prepared. The new SRF contract has loan, grant, loan-loss reserve and overhead. Due to DOE turnover, contracts are taking a long time to be completed; they are short six people in our region alone. Turntine and Ty Meyer reviewed the default SRF loans. One has a judgment against it and the other is in progress toward a solution.

**Board Planning Session Schedule**
The planning session will be Wednesday, August 15 starting at 8:30am. Brian Werst will come and present on some legal items. We will review assessment and rates and charges planning, break for the board meeting, and continue until 4pm or 4:30pm.

**Board/CEO Relationship**

**Property Discussion**
Carter talked about the presentation boards in the room that AHBL designed for our June 27 Public Meeting. There was some confusion being spread over the NextDoor app about which property we own. There are similar properties on Carnahan and further south. Public were otherwise still really happy about the direction we are going. Intrinium is our new tenant and they sent representation to the meeting to introduce themselves. They do onsite monitoring and will be setting up a system for our property. Garth Davis has had several clean up days with Scout groups. One of the neighbors of the property has cut down our fence after we repaired it last year. We had our legal counsel draft a letter which Carter read to the board for approval. It stated that legal action would be taken if trespass and fence damage happens again. In the meeting, the Phase 5 poster drew a lot of questions about the plans to showcase low impact development. Our realtor answered this concern by explaining the value of the property to apartment development and that specific developers had gone as far as to draw up preliminary plans for that exact site. We could turn around and sell the property for 2-3 times what we paid for it. Instead of those
outcomes, we want to consider responsible, sustainable development that is usually only seen on the west side of the state. Carter invited a professional grant writer to the June 27 meeting. Her company is Upwords and she is interested in working with us. Carter is ready to start pushing our plans out to Journal of Business to drum up private-public partnerships to help fund Phases of the property plan.

Motion Miller/James to approve the legal letter to be sent to our neighbor. Motion carried.

Operational Expectations
Department Reports
Rich Edlund from Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) spoke about the Healthy Forest Reserve Program of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that we are going to increase advertisement. Edlund asked Garth Davis what forestry needs are in our area and Davis noted that Coached Planning to develop forestry management plans is not available the way it used to be. NRCS programs require management plans, and now the County is requiring plans in order to receive forestry tax designation.

Davis reported that the plantings from last spring on the 8th property have mostly done really well and only one planting site has had bad mortality.

Meyer shared news from a discussion with Representative Mary Dye. She and Meyer discussed a state funding mechanism to help with issues between water and agriculture in this region and beyond. Dye has asked for Meyer to formulate a dollar amount as she plans this piece of legislation. Our commodity buffer program may be part of the solution. She had various ideas about where the funding could come from including EPA or state funding. When Meyer and Walt Edelen presented at the EPA meeting in Boise, they went overtime because there were so many questions and so many people were new to the concepts; although they have been tasked to regulate agriculture, most of the audience didn’t have a relationship or background in agriculture. James read recently in a Scientific Journal that dust can scientifically be traced back to the source farm. If that technology would be used for regulation, it would be a huge incentive for direct seed over conventional tillage.

Stacey Selcho recapped her previous discussion with James about schools’ use of county parks and the difficulty getting definite answers that she could share with teachers as they prepare field trips. She will keep us updated as she tries to influence this process to be transparent and easy to use.

Erica Johnson talked about the Farm & Food Expo on Nov. 2 & 3 and the Washington Tilth Conference on Nov. 9-11. Farm & Food Expo features Ben Hartman, author of The Lean Farm, and the Tilth Conference will bring in Mai Nguyen, a grains producer from California who is active in Young Farmers Coalition and Asian American Farmers Association.

Carter talked about Timberlake Construction and their desire to lease space on our property to store their truck and other equipment. Intrinium will be hosting an open house and the tentative date is September 6.
Closing of the Meeting

Correspondence/Announcements:

- Email through our attorney was received and discussed; Carter will send the landowner advice to contact DOE for an appropriate resolution.
- Lynn Bahrych sent a letter with info about a biochar stove that uses pellets.
- VOTF received first check from My Fresh Basket, Freeman Store wants to carry produce, and Washington Grown filmed for an episode that will air in the Fall.
- July 12 VOTF meeting is on the Farm.
- Farm Stand open Weds 4-7pm and Sat 10-2pm.
- VOTF will be part of a Home Depot project to build a farm stand building.
- Vicki acknowledged VOTF contributions from Eric Choker and Rich Sgarra.
- July 13 Aerial Rescue Arborist Training at Finch Arboretum.
- Qualchan Women’s Golf Club has selected VOTF as recipient for their upcoming tournament fundraiser on July 17.

At 1:50pm, Chair Scheele recessed the meeting to executive session to discuss performance of a public employee in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 and would reconvene the regular meeting in 15 minutes. At 2:05pm, Chair Scheele stated the executive session would continue for another 15 minutes, approximately. At 2:25 pm, the regular board meeting reconvened. No further action was taken.

READING OF THE MOTIONS

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the agenda with addition of executive session. Motion carried.

Motion Shrauger/James to approve the June Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion James/Miller to accept the June Treasurer’s Report with the corrected EFT and July Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/James to approve the legal letter to be sent to our neighbor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Jerry Scheele, Chair
Randy James, Member

The Spokane Conservation District’s Board meeting minutes are intended to be a reasonable summary of the Board’s deliberations and action. The minutes are not a verbatim record of everything said at the meeting. The minutes include all actions taken by the Board.