Attendees
Supervisors: Jerry Scheele, Wendy Knopp, Tom Miller, Jaki Shrauger, Randy James
Absent: None
Associate Supervisor: Chris Mahelona
SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Hilary Sepulveda, Josie Bjordahl, Jeannie Jesseph, Charlie Peterson, Barry Tee, Garth Davis
Guests: None

Call Meeting to Order
Chairman Scheele called the meeting to order at 5:00 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes/Treasurer’s Report
Acceptance of Consent Agenda
The Consent Agenda was previously distributed. The Board accepted the Consent Agenda items consisting of:
- February 11, 2020 Board Agenda
- January 14, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- January 2019 Treasurer’s Report
- February 2019 Payables Report

*Motion James/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, Including the February Payables Report in the amount of $365,135.36. Motion carried.*

Treasurer’s Report
Prior to the meeting, Supervisor James verified that all the adjusted balances and all accounts matched the Treasurer’s Report stated balances. He noted that check #48206 in the amount of $15,242.10 to D&P Excavation LLC only had one signature.

New Business / Linkage to Community
Public Comments & Introductions
Chairman Scheele made introductions.
Shannon Meagher from Kiemle & Hagood was unable to attend. She is planning to come next month. She will speak about developing homes and buildings with a style that is more conservation minded than the way things are conventionally being built.

Mike Baden from the WSCC was unable to attend.

Water Resources
Peterson presented a WSCC funded project for landowner 16715. The project will re-grade 1500 feet of grass waterway so water will drain well. A sediment basin will be created to help reduce the amount of sediment in surface water. Total project cost share is $50,000 plus a landowner match.
**Motion James/Shrauger to approve WSCC Project #16715. Motion carried.**

**Governance Culture**

**2020 Election Announcement**

Jesseph announced that incumbent Randy James is automatically reelected since he is the only candidate that filed for the Elected Supervisor position in this election. The election has been canceled. Notice will be posted accordingly.

**NACD Meeting Recap**

Carter attended NACD annual meeting in Las Vegas February 8-10. She sits on the Urban and Community Resource Policy Group board. The Urban and Community RPG was created for the benefit of local communities. Two names from the Pacific area were given as representatives to the NACD. People who have received Urban Ag grants shared their stories of how the grants enabled them to positively impact their communities. A large percentage of the money granted has gone to Washington. The committee gave out twenty one awards this year, with six of them going to Washington. The latest Farm Bill suggests funding for an Urban Ag Committee.

A local Urban Ag grant recipient had planned to give a tour of the community garden they had created with the funds. The garden was created several years ago and the group wanted to rebuild a few portions in anticipation of the tour. The supplies for rebuilding the garden were stolen the night before the building was to be done. People at the conference chipped in along with Home Depot to replace the building materials. A local pastor told of how the food from this garden has fed hundreds of people in need.

Many new groups to support conservation have been created over the past year. A few of them are similar to our SCD Farmed Smart program. Two new groups will target communities with military installations. Soil health is becoming a hot topic and Spokane was said to be “on top of it” regarding soil health research and implementation. The Pacific region has 11 soil health champions; six are from Washington with two of them being from Spokane.

Chef Jose Andres spoke in the General Session about nutrition and feeding people one plate at a time. After hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico he brought in a team and fed the people until the UN arrived 10 days later.

Mike Crowder from the Benton Conservation District was nominated as the NACD president-elect.

**Department Reports**

**Forestry**

Davis gave a report on Forestry Department recent activities. They are creating a new nursery at the 8th Ave. Property. They are installing a pot in pot section with an eye to grow live Christmas trees in association with Vets on the Farm. Over 200 people attended the Inland Tree and Landscape Conference. The Conference went very smoothly this year. Davis has a new contract to work with DNR Urban Forestry in the north Idaho area. Sepulveda reported that the Tree Sale is going at a record setting pace.

**Board/CEO Relationship**

**Financial Review**

Carter reported that the Current Budget Position amount showing as deficit is roughly the same amount as the receivables. Rates and Charges deposits will increase in the upcoming months. Board members were provided with a talking points document for their reference if they are asked to explain about the impact rates and charges will have in our community.
Director’s Report
The design plan is almost completed for permits on the new office to be built on the 8th Ave. There is help coming for the asphalt pile. There is someone who is either willing to take it or at least move it to another location on the property. There is a buyer for the scale. Carter and Project Manager, Barry Tee, meet every other Thursday with the design team to flesh out details. The $50,000 CERB grant final draft should be completed tomorrow.

Carted noted that Spokane County and Fairgrounds officials want to move into our current office building ASAP and are pushing for a move-in date. Another entity is also interested. Carter will be meeting with County staff to talk about the lease agreement that has an end date discrepancy.

Staff evaluations are being finished up. New job descriptions and position banding outlines are being created. She and Cori Turntine are working to develop a staff template that could be shared with other districts.

Legislative update- House Bill 2588
Lawmakers submitted House Bill 2588 that would require all special purpose districts (including conservation districts) to run their elections on the general election. Carter thinks this is an overreaction to correct the problem of a few bad actors. Conservation districts elected officials are not paid positions and the district operates under County Commissioners authority for rates and charges income. County representatives have estimated that it will cost almost $250,000.00 per year for SCD to be included in the general election. This will be very costly for tax payers. We are waiting to hear how this issue will be decided.

There was a Commodity Buffer meeting with Carol Smith of WSCC. The SCD Water Resources department explained how this program was developed. This program could be beneficial across the state. Smith said she wants to bring this to other districts.

VOTF is rapidly expanding with more delivery stops and an additional five interns. The truck is being built out and should be ready to go in early March. VOTF will be holding at least five trainings throughout the growing season which will be open to the public as well as Veterans.

Carter and Turntine attended the Women in Ag Conference. The conference emphasized the importance of personal self care to aid longevity in the agriculture industry. They also attended a BizStreet Workshop on developing high performance teams.

The Farmer Veteran Coalition wants to add a chapter in Montana. Vicki will be giving a presentation at their event on March 14, 2020, in Ft. Harrison, MT.

Operational Expectations
Correspondence & Announcements
Jesseph announced the following dates:
   - March 10, 2020 SCD Election Canceled
March 10, 2020 SCD Board Meeting
March 13 Final Day of WA State Legislature Regular Session
March 14 Farmer Veteran Coalition presentation in Montana
June 15-17 WADE Conference

Executive Session
There was no Executive Session.

Closing of the Meeting
Reading of the Motions

Motion James/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, Including the February Payables Report in the amount of $365,135.36. Motion carried.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve WSCC Project #16715. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeannie Jesseph

Gerald A. Scheele, Chair
Randy James, Member