

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, July 8, 2014

PRESENT

Supervisors: Randy James, Tom Miller, Mary Sullivan

Absent: Jerry Scheele, Jaki Shrauger

Associate Supervisors: Dixie Riddle

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Erica VanNatta, Stacey Selcho, Garth Davis, Walt Edelen
 Ty Meyer, Rick Noll, Eric Choker, Jim Armstrong, Barry Tee, Jasmine Loupe,
 Lindsay Chutas

Guests: Chad Greif, BIAS; Ray Ledgerwood, Washington State Conservation
 Commission (WSCC); Rich Edlund, Natural Resource Conservation Service
 (NRCS); Brian Werst, K&L Gates

Acting Chair Randy James called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

Approval of Agenda

Acting Chair James presented the agenda for board approval and noted the board members' absences.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 10, 2014 board meeting had previously been distributed for review.

Motion Miller/Sullivan to accept the June 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Acting Auditor Mary Sullivan, presented the Treasurer's Report for June, 2014.

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END BALANCE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE	ADJ. BALANCE
Argonne Mit. Fund	65,852.06	0	0	65,852.06	0	65,852.06
NW Pipeline Savings Acct	61,224.32	0	0	61,224.32	0	61,224.32
PayPal Merchant Acct	48.25	0	0	48.25	0	48.25
Bank of Fairfield Checking	581,146.35	301,207.49	853,426.34	28,927.50	255,563.75	284,491.25
Bank of Fairfield MMA	84,310.35	100,343.39	0	184,653.74	0	184,653.74
LGIP	2,250,672.84	350,000.00	0	2,600,672.84	0	2,600,672.84

Acting Auditor Sullivan reviewed the bank statements to verify the balances on all accounts except the Argonne Mitigation and NW Pipeline (statements were not yet available). **June Treasurer's Report: Receipts: 10614-10615, 10623-10652, 10654-10659; Claims: 42284-42350; EFTS: 1820, 1839-1851, 1923-1941, 1958-1959. Voids: none. June Accounts Payable: \$69,367.53**

Motion Sullivan/Miller to approve the June TREASURER'S REPORT and July Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Introductions

James welcomed Associate Supervisor Dixie Riddle, our legal counsel Brian Werst, and Ray Ledgerwood who was attending our annual meeting today. Lindsay Chutas introduced our water resource intern, Jasmine Loupe. She is a student at Spokane Community College and she works on Stateline and Livestock and Land projects.

Swearing in of a Supervisor

James swore in Tom Miller as an official supervisor for the Spokane Conservation District. Tom was re-appointed to a three-year term by the WA Conservation Commission.

Board Member position elections tabled

BOARD/CEO RELATIONSHIP

Directors Discussion

Vicki Carter briefed the Board about the Town of Spangle flooding project and the recent flood in Spangle. She and Walt Edelen sent a letter May 28, 2014 to the environmental firm that completed the flood modeling to request compensation. We have an obligation to the tax payers to see that their money is well spent and that a failure in services provided is not overlooked. Edelen commented that the model was not only slightly inaccurate, but in certain places, completely opposite of what actually happened; due diligence was not performed in the surveying effort. Brian Werst commented that we'll need to review the contract to see what warranties we can pursue. Edelen stated that we have hired another consultant to re-do the modeling. Based on the board's wishes, a legal review of the contract will be conducted and second letter from Carter and Edelen will be sent certified mail (copy to Ledgerwood/WSCC).

Carter reviewed a cost-share agreement in the Glenrose neighborhood that included a compost facility, rain gutters and a HUA.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to approve the Dratzs cost-share project on Glenrose prairie; total project cost approximately \$8,400 and cost-share at 75%.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Plan of Work

The 2015 Plan of Work was reviewed during the Board Planning Session this morning, but the board wants to approve it when more members are present.

Correspondence and Announcements

- July 23 – Rhizoterra Field Day to show initial calibration work that Jill Clapperton has completed. 3pm-5pm in Reardan, RSVP required.
- September 9 - Morrow, OH Conservation District will be in the area and we will help tour and host them.
- November 1 – 4th Annual Small Farms Conference: Farm-a-Palouse-a.
- Received a letter from WSCC that we have \$50,000 for Fuels Reduction to spend by July, 2015.
- New board calendar is going to be distributed regularly; staff and partners can submit dates to be included.
- Judy Olson requests participation on the county FSA board. June 15-August 1 is the application period.

Carter and Pat Munts have been working with Kris Krewson of SCC and WSU Cultivating Success program to create certification for Veterans interested in farming. The end goal would be to create veterans with the skills to maintain and operate small farms equipment and help them connect to the local farms. James suggested lining up ride-a-longs for them to observe this fall's harvest. Veterans can participate in the certification program this Fall/Winter.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Update

Ty Meyer has been working with the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association and Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District to bring NRCS RCPP and EQIP funding to the area in conjunction with the PNDSA "Farm Smart" Certification. This would encourage producers (via certification program) as well as consumers (via environmental marketing) to choose sustainably grown commodities. It's a large program and the biggest challenge right now is finding the matching funds. If the plan can provide matching funds at a 1:1 ratio, it will be funded more readily in the RCPP application process. Meyer also has a contact at the EPA, trying to get additional partners with additional funding. The Idaho Conservation Commission has a similar loan program as we do and they may become a partner as well. Loan programs can be leveraged as match. Morrow and Umatilla Conservation Districts in Oregon are also onboard. Certified Farm Planners will be used in this process.

Nationally, the RCPP application process will be competitive. Rich Edlund commented that Meyer's program sounds perfectly aligned with the RCPP goals, except for the timeline being so aggressive; luckily, Meyer has all of the pre-proposals lined up. Washington Department of Ecology has already written a letter of support for the program.

Edelen and the joint WRIA group 54/57 may try to join Palouse Conservation District and WRIA 34 in their proposal to RCPP.

Financial Overview

Greif reviewed the financials. Greif described how some adjustments will be made to reflect changes with T-Will (Travis Willson) Custom Seeding equipment changes. Many revenue budget lines are greater than 50% which means we are on track for bringing money in. Bank fees, or services and charges, need a budget line added to coordinate with actual expenditures. Greif recommends creating separate tree sale lines because invoices for current year tree sale and upcoming year tree sale overlap and make it difficult to see a single year's expenses. Greif will be changing the way we enter SRF receipts in BIAS to be more precise. Our default loans have been brought back into the fold. In general, loan repayments tend to follow seeding seasons. Overall, financials look to be on track. More in-depth discussion will take place at the August meeting.

WSCC Update

Ray Ledgerwood spoke about the state budget rounds coming up. First, there are three budget sections for WSCC: Operations cost of previous budget plus 25%, Engineering, and Unmet Needs. We don't know how many of the unmet funding needs WSCC will take to the legislature. Additionally, staff need to enter all projects into CPDS so that WSCC can get capital project requests collected around August 1. A new feature: districts can now prioritize their projects and tag them with keywords like water quality or water quantity. Mark Clark has been asked to find a 15% budget reduction and present them in packages to the state budget committee. Then, the legislature will select which packages they will fund. WSCC has three options of how we could package the million dollar cut. With this biennium complexity, Carter suggests moving the annual planning session to August so that it is separate from this fiscal year time.

WACD Dues

Carter presented a letter from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) regarding our annual dues.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to pay the WACD dues in the amount of \$5,520. Motion carried.

CLOSING OF MEETING

READING OF THE MOTIONS

Motion Sullivan/Miller to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Sullivan to accept the June 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to approve the June TREASURER'S REPORT and July Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to approve the Drats cost-share project at 31st and Glenrose; total project cost approximately \$8,400 and cost-share at 75%. Motion carried.

Motion Sullivan/Miller to pay the WACD dues in the amount of \$5,520. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Erica VanNatta

Randy James, Vice Chair

Mary Sullivan, Acting Auditor
