

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, November 10, 2015

PRESENT

Supervisors: Randy James, Jaki Shrauger, Wendy Knopp, Tom Miller

Absent: Jerry Scheele

Associate Supervisors:

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Jilla Loan, Erica Johnson, Cori Turntine, Ty Meyer, Lindsay Chutas, Pat Munts, Scott Gail, Barry Tee and Ben Peterson.

Guests: Chad Greif, BIAS

Acting Chair James called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and started the meeting with everyone honoring a Veteran by naming them in the round table.

Approval of Agenda

Acting Chair James presented the agenda for November 10, 2015. James led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 13, 2015 board meeting had previously been distributed for review.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to adopt the October 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Auditor Jaki Shrauger, presented the Treasurer's Report for October, 2015.

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END BALANCE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE	ADJ. BALANCE
NW Pipeline Savings Acct	66,224.32	0	0	66,224.32	0	66,224.32
PayPal Merchant Acct	131.64	2,325.98	2,325.98	131.64	0	131.64
PayPal Transfer Acct	900.82	2,325.98	1,954.44	1,272.36	0	1,272.36
Bank of Fairfield Checking	24,415.71	467,994.22	548,892.48	-56,482.55	146,474.79	89,992.24
Bank of Fairfield MMA	369,906.43	68.20	300,000.00	69,974.63	0	69,974.63
LGIP	3,104,930.21	494.24	0	3,105,424.45	0	3,105,424.45

Prior to the meeting, Shrauger reviewed all of the balances with the bank statements and noted that the NW Pipeline account is now with Banner Bank. Shrauger reviewed the past three months of cancelled checks and only Ch#43308 had an error; it only had one signature. **Treasurer's Report: Receipts: 11922-11929, 11932-12005, 12008, 12011; EFT: 2145, 2160-2171, 2233-2237, 2239-2253, 2260-2261, 2269, 2291-2293; Claims: 43537-43545, 43547-43602; Voids: CLAIMS 43546 (printing error); Refunds: none. Accounts Payable: \$72,285.61.**

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the October TREASURER'S REPORT and November Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments/Introductions

James introduced Pat Munts to give the small farms department report. Munts estimates that we have served 5,000 acres between our program and WSU Ext, with 410 participants in workshops and 13 farm and pasture walks. In a pasture walk, they use the web soil survey, talk about current and potential use for the land, talk about noxious weeds and potential control methods. Partners that Munts has worked

with include federal agencies, City of Spokane, Weed Board and many more. Educational programming has included wholesale produce marketing, cultivating success, and the annual small farms conference. Highlights for this year include Vets on the Farm, receiving a Food Trailblazer Award from the Grove Community, and developing new partnership with Spokane Community College. Miller asked for more detail regarding the urban goat education classes and that element of the Urban Ag Ordinance.

Vicki Carter introduced Scott Gail our new Small Agriculture Custom Operator. He will be going to a lot of events and trainings in the next months to help network and develop this program. Gail said he is excited to do great things with us.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

Election Date Announcement

Tuesday, March 8, 2015 is the election date for Jaki Shrauger's position.

Director's Discussion

Ed Kuhn was one of the very first direct seed farmers in our area and a Veteran. He has passed away recently. We plan to plant a tree in his honor at the Veteran's Cemetery in Medical Lake.

We may have an issue with our RCPP proposal not having been received due to a system error on NRCS's side. We have also put in an application with the Community Development Block Grant to help with OSS. Munts and Carter are working on a grant to help connect farmers to our Vets on the Farm interns. We are also working on Volunteer Stewardship Program with the county and getting a meeting with Shelly O'Quinn. Carter described a situation with a landowner who we have been helping as they respond to a DOE complaint; PNDSA FarmedSMART could be useful to this landowner and that program formally received approval from DOE.

OSS Side Lateral Maximum

Barry Tee requested a limit increase per project from \$3,000 to \$4,000. This will not change the program total of \$20,000.

Motion Knopp/Shrauger to increase the project limit to \$4,000 with the program cap staying at \$20,000. Motion Carried.

Awards

Carter presented the WACD Area Award 2015 that the District received (2nd year in a row) and an award from the Veteran's Cemetery.

Film Update

Dulanie Ellis re-released the film Operation New Mission: *From Battlefields to Farmfields* with updated testimonies and our Vets on the Farm logo is now on the inside cover of the DVD case. She will be at our screening this Friday at the Magic Lantern Theatre along with Senator Michael Baumgartner, local Veterans, and artwork by local artist John Thamm.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

2016 Draft Budget

There have been no changes to the draft budget this month, but there will be next month as we finalize assessment revenue expectations.

Financial Review

Chad Greif reviewed our assets. We are set to exceed our assessment revenues budget this year; we have already received 98% of expected funds. Grant awards are over budget. Tree Sales is only at 93% of

expected revenues. Soil revenues are over expectations, but costs for supplies rose proportionally. Workshops and meeting registrations is at 600% of revenues, so we'll need to look at the coding on that because individual departments have separate codes for their registrations. Personnel expenditures may go over budget for 2015 due to health care and PERS increases. Outreach expenditures have been very successful, but we have exceeded our budget in these line items by \$3-\$4,000. Greif advised to take these overages into consideration as we work on the 2016 budget. As of today, our general fund expenditures and revenues have a net positive of \$24,330; this will change largely by the end of the year, but gives us hope to finish in the black and work to close our book to loan balance. SRF has seen two million dollars repaid in principal balance in the past year which decreases our potential profit in interest; Ty Meyer mentioned that this is not due to extra cash on the farm, but other lenders offering operating lines of credit that require existing loans to get re-amortized and paid off.

Office Hours

Carter presented the concept of closing our office to the public on Fridays and using that as an in-service day for employees to catch up on work uninterrupted.

Roundtable

Meyer detailed his work with PNDSA FarmedSMART and the first draft of a letter from DOE that would grant safe harbor to any landowner who was maintaining a FarmedSMART certification. He considers it a major win that we now have specific farming practices and specific stream classes being used in combination to determine citations. Erica Johnson mentioned that Ben completed nearly 200 Firewise assessments compared to 60 in 2014. Carter announced Veterans Day activities that families can attend tomorrow.

Dates:

- November 13: Farm-A-Palouse-A in conjunction with the Washington Tilth Producers Conference, November 13-15.
- December 2-4: WACD Meeting Doubletree Spokane
- Winter Quarter: Vets on the Farm Cultivating Success Course at SCC
- February, 2016: NACD, Reno NV

READING OF THE MOTIONS

Motion Shrauger/Miller to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to adopt the October 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the October TREASURER'S REPORT and November Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

Motion Knopp/Shrauger to increase the project limit to \$4,000 with the program cap staying at \$20,000. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Jerry Scheele, Board Chair

Randy James, Vice Chair