

**SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
 210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 Tuesday, March 8, 2016

**PRESENT**

**Supervisors:** Jerry Scheele, Jaki Shrauger, Tom Miller

**Absent:** Randy James, Wendy Knopp

**Associate Supervisors:**

**SCD Staff:** Vicki Carter, Jilla Loan, Erica Johnson, Ty Meyer, Nate Lewis, Dan Ross, Scott Gail, Walt Edelen, Barry Tee and

**Guests:** Chad Greif, BIAS; Mike Baden, WSCC; Lindell Haggin, Friends of the Little Spokane River; Steve Sprecher, Doug Allen NRCS; Dave Stasney, SCC;

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Scheele presented the agenda for approval. Vicki Carter noted that under correspondence she will present a resolution for approval from RCO.

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

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the February 9, 2016 board meeting had previously been distributed for review.

**Motion Shrauger/Miller to approve the February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Auditor Jaki Shrauger, presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2016.**

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	3,721.64	13,083.21	14,488.98	2,315.87	0	2,315.87
PayPal Transfer Acct	350.00	14,165.05	14,165.05	350.00	0	350.00
Checking Inland NW Bank	391,503.39	258,660.20	229,718.62	420,444.97	12,577.06	433,022.03
MMA Inland NW Bank	3,721.64	60.74	0	370,169.10	0	370,169.10
<b>LGIP</b>	<b>3,107,542.05</b>	<b>1,037.17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,108,579.22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,108,579.22</b>

Prior to the meeting, Shrauger reviewed all of the balances with the bank statements and verified all of the bank statements except for the NW Pipeline Savings Account, not yet available (not coming due to no activity); the endorsed check copies have finally arrived and were also confirmed. **Treasurer's Report:** Claims: 43842-43892, 43895; EFT: 242, 305-317, 357, 468-488, 523-524, 531, 585, 591 and 555 – PayPal Chip Reader Purchase \$323.93; Receipt: 12357-12499, 12501-12533; Voids: 343 – printer error, 539 – BIAS Error replaced with #12529, 592 - duplicate entry, 593 – entry error; Refunds: 213, 304, 459. **Accounts Payable: \$257,759.17.**

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to approve the February TREASURER'S REPORT and March Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY**

**Public Comments/Introductions**

Carter introduced Josie Bjordahl, our new administrative employee. She is learning from Jilla Loan to cover the front desk. Carter introduced Doug Allen from NRCS; he was meeting with Charlie Peterson and Walt Edelen regarding RCPP.

### **Champions of Conservation**

Walt Edelen presented a Champions of Conservation Award to Lindell Haggin who has conducted water monitoring at more than 2,000 data points plus countless other conservation efforts, volunteer positions and activities.

### **Drone Demonstration**

Dave Stasney from Spokane Community College spoke about their new Center for Applied Technology and Environmental Research. They are working with drones to collect aerial data. They took six minutes of flight footage of the bear creek project. They can run this flight again with specific vegetative equipment and tell whether a tree is dying. The emphasis is on data collection, GIS, and the question, "what can we do with this data?" They will be adding a thermal imaging camera and other tools to use with the drone.

### **RCPP Update**

Walt Edelen presented The Greater Spokane River RCPP (Resource Conservation Partnership Program) to bring the board up to speed on the new funding we will be implementing. It's not grant funding; it's secured funding for NRCS programs delivered by NRCS and its partners. RCPP uses EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP funding and puts it into concentrated areas led by partner coalitions. Our proposal was awarded \$7.7 million. Our partners include WRIA groups, Spokane and CDA tribes, Idaho Dept. of Lands, neighboring conservation districts, Lands Council, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association and many more. Our project covers 6,600 square miles. We will work with producers to conserve up to 150,000 acres using conservation tillage, precision ag, riparian buffers, conservation easements, and forest stand improvements. We will reduce erosion by up to 600,000 tons of soil erosion by 2021. The program will run from 2016 to 2021. Depending on the landowner and their needs and opportunities, we will use all of aforementioned NRCS programs – two of which will be brought to Washington and Idaho for the first time. An innovative aspect of the proposal is the Commodity Buffer. This will compensate producers for the value of the land that is taken out of production. The FarmedSmart program from PNDSA will be an important component as well. Edge of Field monitoring will be installed at a cost of \$20,000 per site with operational costs of \$25,000. This will provide data of how ag practices are affecting water quality and get local producers involved in water quality discussions.

## **GOVERNANCE CULTURE**

### **Election Update**

Erica Johnson reported that today our election polls were open from 7:30am-4pm. We received 16 ballots, all verified voters using myvote.wa.gov. It was a write-in only election. Jaki Shrauger was the write-in candidate on all 16 ballots. The polling site was managed by Johnson, and volunteers: Whitworth Intern Maggie, and Marilyn Mayer, and Les Linton.

### **Financial Review**

Chad Greif gave a rundown of the budget reports and the balance sheet. We are up 11% compared to last year and 7% from last month in book to loan assets gap. Greif corrected the balance sheet as per Tom Miller's observation in the last meeting. There were no loan repayments last month. Greif also highlighted the aged receivable report that Cori Turntine puts together to give an idea of expected

receivables. Shrauger had some questions about how the table functioned and Greif walked through an example. Greif and Turntine will work together to incorporate this data also into the SRF balance sheet. Low fuel prices, low commodity prices, low loan rates, new insurance schemes, and new operational loan programs are all factors and pressures in our SRF loan program. In discussion, Greif and Ty Meyer identified that the operating loans need a new designation in the BIAS system because they are held “in process” because we need to be able to disperse funds over time. Chair Scheele pointed out an SRF expenditure that was actually for the new Small Farms Equipment; that will be re-coded so that the financials are accurate.

## **BOARD/CEO RELATIONSHIP**

### **Good Governance and Schedule 22**

Carter presented the Good Governance information from Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Mike Baden clarified that the review is based on the current fiscal year, not 2015 calendar year. Carter also passed out the draft Schedule 22 and noted that board members can submit revisions before it is due in May.

### **SRF Update**

No additional details since last month.

### **OSS Update**

Edelen said the CBDG grant is coming up in July and we will complete more Spokane Valley connection projects with it. He also detailed a situation out at Honeymoon Bay on Newman Lake that we will be trying to help resolve. We are still exploring options including a community system. This has made us aware that many of our local lakeside homeowners could use septic help.

### **VSP Update**

Carter and Edelen will be giving the County Commissioners an update next week and hopefully receive the signed contract that includes how the billing will work and other details. Stakeholder meetings and an Request for Proposals (RFP) for a facilitator will be coming. Nancy McLaughlin is a new commissioner and Carter will also meet with her separately to help her understand everything we do.

### **WSCC**

WSCC has an open RFP for a Dairy Nutrient Management Loan Program that we will be taking a look at. They don't have the resources to manage it in house.

### **Small Acreage Program**

Scott Gail has already sold all of the custom seed acres for the spring and has a waiting list. Jim Armstrong spoke with Rich Hartzell of the Fair Ground Board and we will be able to store machinery there except certain items must be moved during the fair season. Planting may start the last week of April if it is warm enough. Vets on the Farm property is being developed by Gail and Vets on the Farm Intern Nate Lewis. They will be building fences in April and planting vegetables the middle of May. Carter noted that legal contracts will be drawn up between SCD and the Emtmans so that we can get a Farm Number and be eligible for NRCS incentives like hoop houses. We have a KivaZip loan open for crowd funding. This is a funding tool that the Farmer Veteran Coalition helped us access. We will need a redesign of the septic system on the property because it is right in the middle of our farming project. Emtmans have donated equipment and an operator to level the land, a vendor has volunteered to donate topsoil, and an engineer has donated \$500 worth of services to redesign the septic. The next Vets on the Farm meeting is this Thursday. The opportunities and expansion of this program continue to multiply.

## **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **Correspondence & Announcements**

Carter presented a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Resolution for our three

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) projects this year. This is a new formality.

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to adopt RCO Application and Authorization Resolution for our FFFPP projects. Motion carried.**

#### **Schedule Check-In**

Carter detailed how successful the closed to the public Friday schedule has been. Edelen echoed her sentiments. The trial period for this schedule was set through March and Carter proposes continuing the schedule until it needs to be revised.

#### **Dates:**

- Mondays in March: Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program
- March 11: Tree School Windstorm Workshop
- March 22 CWMA weed management workshop at EWU

#### **READING OF THE MOTIONS**

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

**Motion Shrauger/Miller to approve the February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to approve the February TREASURER'S REPORT and March Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.**

**Motion Miller/Shrauger to adopt RCO Application and Authorization Resolution for our FFFPP projects. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

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**Jerry Scheele, Board Chair**

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**Jaki Shrauger, Auditor**