

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, June 14, 2016

PRESENT

Supervisors: Jerry Scheele, Tom Miller, Wendy Knopp Jaki Shrauger

Absent: Randy James

Associate Supervisors:

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Erica Johnson, Josie Bjordahl, Jilla Loan, Pat Munts, Ty Meyer, and Barry Tee.

Guests: Chad Greif, BIAS

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 5:10pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Scheele presented the agenda for approval.

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 10, 2016 board meeting had previously been distributed for review.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to approve the May 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Auditor Jaki Shrauger, presented the Treasurer’s Report for May 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	363.83	1,665.83	1,979.66	50.00	-50.00	0
PayPal Transfer Acct	2,511.11	1,824.48	2,791.27	1,544.32	0	1,544.32
Checking Inland NW Bank	30,706.85	1,289,904.09	294,277.88	1,026,333.06	43,348.28	1,069,681.34
MMA Inland NW Bank	3,373.72	.14	0	3,373.86	0	3,373.86
LGIP	3,010,854.08	1,084.64	0	3,011,938.72	0	3,011,938.72

Prior to the meeting, Shrauger did not have the opportunity to review the accounts and balances and this will be verified and approved at the July meeting. Shrauger did review the account balances aloud.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the June Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments/Introductions

None

WSSC Update

Chair Scheele highlighted a budget development item from Mike Baden’s WSSC report. He noted that we need to develop a method to communicate with stakeholders and producers to use their testimonies as we communicate with county commissioners, city council members, legislators and others. Ryan Mellow from Pierce CD has laid the ground work for us with the transition to a rates and charges process and he will share tools and tips with Vicki Carter regarding how to include stakeholders and producers. Carter announced that we received the irrigation funding for the Learning Farm in the amount of \$6,000

from the end of the fiscal year fund pool. Carter noted that there is a WSCC meeting in Ellensburg June 21 and a WSCC led CPDS training on June 22. Tom Miller said that the hiring committee for the WACD Executive Director chose a candidate unanimously and will announce the hire after the offer is accepted. The WACD has a newsletter now called SUPERNEWS it's directed at Supervisors.

Department Report Review

Carter updated the staff on health issues that have arisen with Ben Peterson and Cori Turntine. Both are expected to make full recoveries.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

Financial Review

Chad Greif reviewed the financial documents and noted some changes on the balance sheet: OSS receivables are included on the asset list, and the OSS fund and Custom Small Acreage Program (SAP) fund will be on this accounting on an ongoing basis. The SRF Receivables section includes lines of credit that are used for operational costs. Total loan to book asset gap is more of an estimate this month because complete information was not available. This will be corrected by next month. SAP capital expenditures were originally run through the general fund and are going through the process of being moved to their own fund so they can be tracked more specifically. We have recently received a large DOE voucher and an assessment payment. Greif detailed some budget overruns including Urban Trees, district operations and staff travel. Total expenditures are currently at 55% of the general fund budget.

BOARD/CEO RELATIONSHIP

Investment Discussion

Carter described a discussion she and Turntine had regarding taking our LGIP funds and paying off the L07 DOE Loan and potentially save \$100,000 in interest. Greif will work up some numbers for the board to review in July to determine if this is something we would be comfortable doing.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

SRF Update

Ty Meyer reported that loans are down this quarter. Producers seem to be waiting to see how the commodity markets turn out; we lost 35 cents per bushel in the past 3 days. There is a chance of freezing which will affect the number of bushels and our young crops at the Vets on the Farm Learning Farm. Fall wheat could be cut as soon as June 25 in Ritzville. Currently, the custom direct seed program is not a valuable investment due to the limited amount of time that Meyer can commit to seeding. Meyer cannot justify this capital outlay sitting in equipment if it's not delivering a worthy rate of investment. Meyer recommends putting the equipment on the market. We can always buy more equipment if the market turns around, but sitting on it doesn't do any good. Chair Scheele commented that this is the time to put equipment on the market in time for Fall Seeding. The custom direct seed program has paid for itself and accomplished a tremendous amount of conservation, networking, community building; it all started because we had to repossess equipment from a direct seed loan that fell through. Greif encouraged Meyer and the board to consider the opportunity-cost in keeping the program; Meyer's time can be applied to other opportunities if we sell this equipment.

Custom Small Acreage Program

Meyer reported for Scott Gail that his season got off to a slow start due to Gail being in the hospital before seeding. The drill had breaking chains and other problems that were disappointing because it was straight from the factory and should've been ready to go, but overall the seeding went well. Logistics need to be improved. It's a two hour process to load and unload the tractor. The truck is working well.

The acres he hoped to accomplish were cut short due to time constrictions. Meyer is looking at lowboy trailers to save time on the loading and unloading. There are some scheduling and communication items to be addressed.

OSS

Barry Tee will report on OSS in the next meeting. Carter stated the final contract on the CBDG grant is being signed around and will be ready to implement July 1.

Vets on the Farm Update

Nate Lewis reported that Northwest Farm Credit Services (NWFCFS) sent 9 volunteers and planted 3,000 plants at the Learning Farm. An electric fence has been put in to protect the plants. Harvesting and storage equipment has been purchased. We received funding to purchase the irrigation we need. Lewis will be putting row covers out tonight to help protect plants from the expected frost kill. A permanent fence will be installed with funding pending from Home Depot. NWFCFS will be sending volunteers again next week.

The farmhouse will have a Vet intern who will live on the farm and participate in the program. Planning and prepping for the green house is the next big step. KHQ is doing a feature story on Vets on the Farm, in part because we will be a recipient of funds raised by Dan Kleckner's golf fundraiser for vets. Depending on the size of the tournament, we may receive enough funds for a greenhouse.

Carter gave a film screening last night at WADE training in Leavenworth: *Ground Operations: From Battlefields to Farmfields*. Chelan, Palouse, Whitman, Walla Walla and Columbia Conservation districts are interested in bringing Vets on the Farm programs online.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

We have had one out of two public workshops to announce the VSP program to the public and recruit a workgroup. 35 people attended. Meyer, Ron Shultz, Robin Meenach, and Walt Edelen served as an information panel. Carter was really happy with the way Shultz dispelled myths regarding the program. The second meeting will be June 16 and will be the same content for those who missed it previously.

Closing of Meeting

Correspondence & Announcements

Mike Rule from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife has contacted Carter with a monarch butterfly program seeking to reach landowners and public entities. It includes \$15,000 to plant 300 acres of habitat for monarchs. It would be an easy program to implement because WDFW would be doing the reporting and paperwork.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the 5 year pollinator program agreement with WDFW for \$15,000. Motion carried.

Carter presented a contract from WSCC for the matching funds they will provide for the RCPP commodity buffers and other pieces.

Motion Miller/Shrauger to approve the contract with WSCC for RCPP Matching funds of \$1,198,600. Motion carrier.

Cascadia Conservation District is handling cultural resources issues for other districts including onsite inspections etc... and to use this service we must have a working agreement.

Motion Knopp/Shrauger to approve the cooperative working agreement between Cascadia Conservation District and Spokane Conservation District for the purpose of cultural resource investigations. Motion carried.

Carter thanked the board and staff for the nomination to the WADE Employee of the Year which she won and was given on Monday. She noted she shared the recognition with the entire staff and board and couldn't have done it without the support and effort of the entire team. Miller mentioned that she received a standing ovation.

Dates:

- June 16 – VSP meeting
- July 12 – All day annual planning meeting
- July 12 – SCD Board Meeting at noon
- August 9 – SCD Board Meeting at noon
- Vets on the Farm Parade Schedule:
 - Deer Park Settlers Days, July 23
 - Colville Rendezvous Days, August 6
 - Ritzville Wheatland Community Fair, September 3
 - Deutschesfest, Odessa, September 17
 - Spokane ValleyFest, September 23
 - Rockford SE County Fair, September 24

READING OF THE MOTIONS

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

Motion Shrauger/Miller to approve the May 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the June Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Jerry Scheele, Board Chair

Tom Miller, Board Member