

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Attendees

Supervisors: Jerry Scheele, Randy James, Jaki Shrauger, Wendy Knopp

Absent: Tom Miller

Associate Supervisors:

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine, Eric Choker, Charlie Peterson, Ty Meyer, Erica Johnson, Barry Tee, Josie Bjordhal

Guests: Chad Atkins, DOE; Thad (Boston) Elmore; Steve Hummel, DOE

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 5:07pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Scheele presented the agenda noting that we also have special meeting minutes to approve. Vicki Carter noted that Mike Baden will not attend tonight to present a WSCC report.

Motion James/Shrauger to accept the agenda with noted change. Motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 10 regular meeting, January 27 special meeting and February 17 special meeting were reviewed.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the January 10 regular meeting, January 27 special meeting, and February 17 special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END BALANCE	OUTSTANDING BALANCE	ADJ. BALANCE
PayPal Merchant Acct	257.84	18,662.35	18,393.64	526.55	0	526.55
PayPal Transfer Acct	350.00	18,355.40	15,269.72	3,435.68	-3,085.68	350.00
Checking Inland NW Bank	244,384.27	240,420.15	271,877.39	212,927.03	52,958.52	265,885.55
MMA Inland NW Bank	633,902.18	80.76	0	633,982.94	0	633,982.94
LGIP	3,020,611.17	1,617.01	0	3,022,228.18	0	3,022,228.18

Auditor Jaki Shrauger presented the January Treasurer's Report and summarized her verification of account balances and cancelled checks. She read the account balances and the **Treasurer's Report:** Receipts: 14056-14227, 14234-14241, 14267-14271; EFTs: 1,2, 49-51, 115-128, 162, 187, 230, 231, 256-272, 352; Claims: 52-114, 130-131, 141, 205-218, 221, 247-254, 278-282; Voids: Ch# 44812, wrong vendor, Ch# 44769, duplicate, EFT #2, Duplicate; a refund report was presented to the board as well. **Accounts Payable:** \$268,106.88.

Motion James/Knopp to accept the January Treasurer's Report and the February Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments/Introductions

Chair Scheele introduced a returning guest, Boston Elmore, and Chad Atkins, Department of Ecology. Atkins introduced a new employee, Steve Hummel. Atkins gave a presentation on Ag Non-point Work in Spokane County; he spoke about Source Control and Treatment. They are excited to continue work with the Farmed Smart certification program. So far, \$600 million has been allocated by various county, municipal and private companies to be spent on capital improvements in the coming years to improve water quality. Similar to past livestock evaluations, some preliminary tillage watershed evaluations will be done by roadside; they will not result in the

contact of individual operators, but the findings will drive education efforts. DOE will also be looking to work with golf courses that impact Hangman Creek. Ty Meyer touched on the state revolving fund in Oregon and Idaho that allows a non-point project to partner its funds to a point source project. Meyer and Atkins will be looking to see if similar rules could be allowed in Washington. This could be a potential funding source for the Commodity Buffer program.

Charlie Peterson presented projects for approval. All are 75% cost-share. The first request was for \$50,000 Washington State Conservation Commission (WSSC) non-shellfish implementation funding for Project 7084 on Newman Lake for 160 feet of shoreline restoration and wave attenuation engineering; total cost will be around \$63,000. The second request was for \$50,000 WSSC non-shellfish implementation funding for Project 6018 for ¾ miles of shoreline restoration on River Mile 17 on Hangman Creek; total cost will be \$200,000. The third project request was for \$3,400 WSSC Fire Recovery funding for Project 7842 to replace 8,100 feet of fence destroyed by Yale Road Fire.

Motion James/Knopp to approve Project 7084, 6018, and 7842 for WSSC funding. Motion carried.

Department Report Review

Charlie Peterson gave an update on the RCPP work so far. We received 37 applicants. There are 20,000 acres in conservation tillage (this meets our first year goal), 50 miles of buffer set up, and 9,000 acres of precision ag set up. We exceeded our precision ag goal by 6,000 acres! Jake Clements has been hired, previously Palouse Conservation District. He will work with Peterson to get all of our RCPP landowners in the system.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

2017 Election Update

Erica Johnson announced that Randy James was the only candidate to submit paperwork by the filing deadline which means we will cancel the election due to the automatic re-election of the incumbent.

NACD Update

NACD Annual Meeting was held in Denver, CO in early February. Carter reported that Meyer and Walt Edelen presented about RCPP and Pat presented about our Urban Ag Grant. Meyer submitted a resolution at NACD that ultimately passed. Regarding CRP take-out, this resolution asks NRCS to recognize CRP take-out as a resource concern. NRCS responded that if a CRP landowner applies for a program within the last year of their contract, then they are eligible; conservation district staff pushed the issue, noting that this is true on paper, but is not a current practice. The resolution passed ultimately as two separate resolutions and NACD will continue to work on it with NRCS staff. NCDEA asked Carter to serve as the Pacific Northwest representative.

WACD Leg Days

Carter and Miller attended WACD Legislative Days February 13-14. She noted that it will be another hard year for district funding from the state level, but there is still strong support for the RCPP work because it brings so many federal dollars to the region.

Board/CEO Relationship

Financial Review

Chad Greif was not in attendance tonight. Cori Turntine pointed out the operating receivables line that is now included in the balance sheet as well as the uncompensated absence liability line. Carter mentioned that we have purchased two previously owned vehicles: a Ford 2004 ¾ ton truck for water resources and a 2009 Ford F150 for general district use. We will also be looking for an RCPP vehicle as well.

Carter noted that there are four employees that did not reduce their leave to 240 by the end of the year. Carter and Turntine developed a plan for each of these employees to use up their leave by an extended deadline of July.

James suggested the date be moved to September.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the leave carry-over extension to September for these four employees.

Motion carried.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Vets on the Farm Update

We have an agreement with CasaCano Farms to train and lead our farm work this year from GAP handling to seed ordering and everything in between. Our Vets should be ready in 2018 to do it on their own in an incubator concept. We are looking for an excavator, we are going to bring gravel in for the floor of the green house and soil in for the hoop house.

Correspondence & Announcements

The board received an Annual Report from Enduris. Two great articles featured SCD in the most recent Wheatlife Magazine for RCPP and Farmed Smart.

Carter announced that we will be looking at emergency procurement for some engineering services on the environmental report related to our real estate due diligence timeframe. We only have 60 days to complete this, which is not long enough for a standard Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Meyer brought the Rhizoterra loan back to the board. Meyer wants the board to consider releasing the land that is collateralized as part of the loan. The money market account and equipment would still be kept as collateral and the note would be amended. Meyer mentioned that the original loan terms did state that the collateral would be released as the principal decreased.

Motion Shrauger/James to release the land collateral on the existing Rhizoterra loan. Motion carried.

Turntine spoke about the WSCC Good Governance criteria and how it has evolved into CAPP: Conservation Accountability and Performance Program. There will be an accreditation process piloted in 2017, and in 2018 it will be fully implemented. There are 14 requirements to be met. It seems like it's a mesh of the Schedule 22 and the Good Governance Checklist, but more tailored for conservation.

Dates:

- February 28 – Native Edible Plants in Your Garden Landscape
- Mondays in March – Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program
- March 17 - Firewise Communities Workshop
- March 31 and April 1 - Tree Sale Pick Up Days and Surplus Sale
- April 18-19 – Water Catchment Certification Course

READING OF THE MOTIONS

Motion James/Shrauger to accept the agenda with noted change. Motion carried.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the January 10 regular, January 27 special, and February 17 special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion James/Knopp to accept the January Treasurer's Report and the February Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried.

Motion James/Knopp to approve Project 7084, 6018, and 7842 for WSCC funding. Motion carried.

Motion James/Shrauger to approve the leave carry-over extension to September for four employees. Motion

carried.

Motion Shrauger/James to release the land collateral on the existing Rhizoterra loan. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Jerry Scheele, Board Chair

Randy James, Vice Chair