

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at Noon

Attendees

Supervisors: Jerry Scheele, Tom Miller

Absent:

Associate Supervisors:

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Erica Johnson, Stacey Selcho, Garth Davis, Eric Choker, Walt Edelen, Barry Tee, Charlie Peterson,

Guests: Chad Greif, BIAS; Pat Munts, WSU Extension; Avril Stevenson, Rhizoterra; Luke Burton, NRCS.

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at noon. There was not a quorum, so all items requiring board approval were held until the next meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 20 meeting, June 30 special meeting and May 26 special meeting were previously distributed for review. These will be approved in August.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report will be given in August.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments/Introductions

Chair Scheele introduced Avril Stevenson of Rhizoterra. She gave an overview of the work she and Dr. Clapperton completed with the Tracer equipment with local farmers, Rutgers University, University of Idaho, and a cosmetics company in Provo. A new customer in Guatemala is coming online too. Their Bruker sales rep for Oregon and Washington is looking to buy their calibrations to sell directly to their customers. The latest version of the Tracer released by Bruker is being tested to see if the calibrations (created with an older model) need to be tweaked. On July 18, one of the founding members will be bought out of the company. Stevenson brought various documents to share with the board including a quote from Bruker for the re-sale value of the equipment. She also brought financial documents to illustrate their income stream. She did not yet receive an equipment estimate for the Alpha equipment. Carter asked when the soils calibrations will be completed; Stevenson said that it's complete, but they are always testing more samples to increase accuracy. The original idea of selling the equipment and calibrations to local businesses and labs was slowed down because they could not directly sell the equipment. Bruker wants all equipment sales to go through official regional reps. Stevenson said they could ramp up marketing for their calibration sales. Stevenson said they'll be working with the Alpha calibrations and looking at identifying elements associated with pesticides.

WSCC Update

Mike Baden was not present but his report was included in the packets.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

Board Positions Elections

Carter noted that this item will be addressed next month.

Financial Report & Analysis

Chad Greif gave the financial report and noted the timeline between when expenses are vouchered and when that payment is received. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and other cost-share payments had to be spent by June 30 as well as various loans and loan payments which brought expenses up in June, but \$700,000 will be vouchered in July. The monthly loans for our vehicles and Kiva loan repayment have their own fund now so they can be monitored accurately. Greif and Cori Turntine worked through a few procedural issues this month to keep the balance sheet accurate.

Already, 61.7% of budgeted revenue has been obtained and we are only half way through the year. However, salaries and benefits have risen to more than 80% of their budget. Greif made some budget amendment recommendations for RCPP and other programs payments in cost-share. Scheele asked how much RCPP funding comes from NRCS; Walt Edelen explained that most of the work is pass-through to programs such as EQIP, but we do voucher for technical assistance time. Matching funds come from Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). At the recent WSCC meeting, it was decided that only the four original RCPP projects in our state will divide the funding set aside for them rather than further divide as more projects are added to our state. Edelen noted that RCPP funding was used to purchase a drone and we are using thermal imaging and other tools for monitoring RCPP conservation. We may use it in research that professors are doing at WSU Pullman and at Eastern Washington University.

Board Planning Session Schedule

Carter reminded the board that the planning session and board meeting for August was moved to *Monday, August 7*. For the morning session, Ron Shultz will be coming to discuss proposed water quality act modifications, RCPP cooperators information privacy, a statewide \$20 per parcel tax, and other important proposals. Then, the board meeting will be held at noon, followed by more planning session items. Tom Miller noted his concerns with the water quality act modifications. These topics will be discussed for feasibility in depth on August 7. The meeting may be held at the new property.

Board/CEO Relationship

Property Discussion

Carter pointed out the special meeting minutes from June 30 that outline the board's decision to not sell a section of the property. That potential buyer remains interested in leasing. There are two other parties that have expressed interest in leasing. Now that we know we are not selling, Carter hopes to get it leased as soon as possible. There are several other opportunities for making deals related to resources on the property. Carter applauded Barry Tee for the work he has been doing to keep the property maintained despite the efforts of vandals.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Department Reports

Pat Munts, WSU Extension, reported on the NACD Urban Ag Grant work that she has done. They have created new lines of communication, new partnerships, and plan to have a speaker series this fall. They are helping revise the Urban Ag Ordinances for City of Spokane and for new ordinances in Spokane Valley. A Spokane Community Gardens group has been formed to help people find and use community gardens, and resources for community gardens. Soil and water management education continues to be implemented. Munts also spoke about a Risk Management Education Grant that is helping develop a mentor-intern training program for Vets on the Farm. Applications will be accepted in October and then interns and mentors will be matched and operate through September. Scheele asked about school gardens; Munts noted that this project was delayed due to irrigation communication with maintenance staff. Despite the late start, 10 smart pots were installed at two local elementary schools. At Longfellow School, the Boys & Girls programs are also using these gardens during the summer. The Master Gardeners demonstration garden in the GreenZone is fruitful and a passerby is welcome to harvest a handful of peas etc...

Correspondence and Announcements

Lance Burton came from NRCS; he has worked there for 6 years. Roylene Rides at the Door is coming back on August 23. He focuses on CRP and Conservation Stewardship Program. They have 56 openings and anticipate only 4 to be filled due to federal hiring freeze.

Carter noted that next month we will make budget amendments, have a full financial review with Jaki Shrauger and board position elections will take place.

READING OF THE MOTIONS

There were no motions.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Jerry Scheele, Board Chair

Thomas Miller, Vice Chair