Attendees
Supervisors: Randy James, Tom Miller, Wendy Knopp
Absent: Jerry Scheele, Jaki Shrauger
Associate Supervisors:
SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Erica Johnson, Josie Bjordahl, Ty Meyer, Barry Tee, Walt Edelen, Charlie Peterson, Stacey Selcho, and Lindsay Chutas
Guests: Joel Breems, Alysha McCullough, Beth Bowden, Judy Snyder, Joe Snyder; Rich Edlund and Carlee Elke, NRCS; John Covert, DOE

Agenda
Acting Chair Tom Miller called the meeting to order at 5pm, led the pledge of allegiance and presented the agenda noting that Mike Baden is not present for a Washington State Conservation Commission report.

Motion James/Knopp to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the March 13 meeting were previously distributed for review.

Motion James/Knopp to approve the March 13 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Acting Auditor Randy James read through the Treasurer’s Report. Prior to the meeting he verified all the adjusted balances and all accounts matched. He verified the cancelled checks as well. There was one check without two signatures that was more than $10,000. James asked questions about vendors that he was not familiar with as did Wendy Knopp.


Motion Knopp/James to accept the March Treasurer’s Report and April Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS / LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY
Tom Miller led roundtable introductions because there were so many guests. New faces included Carlee Elkie from NRCS, and several observers. Walt Edelen introduced John Covert and his presentation, “Understanding the Spokane River and Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.”
The dynamic relationship between the flows of the river and aquifer was created during the Missoula Floods 1,000 years ago. Every September, Avista usually opens the gate of Post Falls Dam at Lake Couer d’Alene, but in 2015, the lake level was so low due to drought, they didn’t let out any water. The data from that year revealed new information about the relationship of the river and the aquifer; there is a natural increase of 90 cfs that occurs over a month (mid September through October) as groundwater pumping decreases aquifer wide by 160+cfs. We pump 40-50% of the flow of the river each summer. Water use is anticipated to grow 41% from 2010 to 2040. The DOE now has minimum in-stream flow rules for the river. These minimums affect the issuing of new water rights. Most Spokane Valley water purveyors have additional water rights that they can grow into, but there is a need to create a sharing system so that the current rights can be used since new ones will not be issued. In Idaho, they have their own water rights.

**Board/CEO Relationship**

**Financial Review**

Cori Turntine announced that Chad Greif from BIAS will do an in depth financial presentation next month. The tree sale exceeded expectations and hit $80,000 gross revenue when only $75,000 was projected. We are short on overall revenues, but the assessment comes in next month. Turntine presented the quarterly liability report indicating $155,143.51 in leave balances.

**Property Update**

Carter continues to meet with AHBL and move into greater detail in the planning. The anticipated building cost is now $4 million including furniture and landscaping. We are no longer planning a new street entrance in Phase 1. The training center also has moved to Phase 2. Another public meeting will be held on June 27 to present the plans to the neighbors. The existing building continues to be marketed for sale or lease. Low impact housing could be developed in Phase 3; we would sell to a developer with a deed restriction or develop in partnership with an appropriate company.

**Operational Expectations**

**Annual Financial Report Update**

Turntine announced that the report is on track for completion by the May deadline. At the WADE training, Turntine will present a class on how to create effective annual financial reports.

**RCPP Update**

Walt Edelen announced that Jake Clements has left SCD to work for Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District. We need to hire a certified planner to take his place. Charlie Peterson will be very busy. Rich Edlund feels confident that with Carlee Elkie now on staff the RCPP program will progress even faster. Elkie has worked for NRCS for 10 years; her dad and brother also work for NRCS and she has family ties to agriculture in North Dakota. The NRCS Local Working Group met last Thursday. Walt Edelen said that this biennium we will receive the amount we need from WSCC for RCPP, and WSCC is going back to the legislature to try and get more funding. Seth Flanders is making more visits with farmers and hopes to double the original 39 miles of commodity buffer sign ups.
SRF Update
Ty Meyer is impressed at how many loans have been initiated with our SRF program this winter. Work on the bad loans continues and a court judgment was made on one of them. It will be about a two to three month process to collect.

Vets on the Farm
Washington Grown will feature VOTF and will be out filming on June 25. The airdate will be between October and December. Laura Johnson was instrumental in setting this up. Starting May 12 we will have a Farm Stand to sell plant starts and later produce. Wendy Knopp and Vicki Carter will be attending the Farmer Veteran Coalition “Splash” event in Chelan to celebrate the opening of the Washington State Chapter on April 19. Carter was selected to go on A KC-135 refueling exercise as part of the Boss’s Lift at Fairchild, AFB.

Hangman Creek Landowner Meeting
We are planning a landowner meeting in response to a lawsuit between the Spokane Riverkeeper and DOE. As a result of the lawsuit, 10 livestock operators and 10 tillage operation parcels will be contacted for noncompliance in the Hangman Creek Watershed. Our meeting will showcase current projects in the watershed and programs that we offer. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 12 from 6-8pm at the Fairfield Community Center.

Correspondence/Announcements:
Carter reviewed these items:
- Annual Reports from Enduris and NACD were distributed to the board.
- Annual Plan of work is being updated by staff
- WADE conference is June 11-13 and early bird registration is due in two weeks

READING OF THE MOTIONS
Motion James/Knopp to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion James/Knopp to approve the March 13 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion Knopp/James to accept the March Treasurer’s Report and April Accounts Payable. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.
Respectfully submitted by: Erica Johnson

Thomas Miller, Vice-Chair
Randy James, Member