

**WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Supervisor Regular Meeting**

2:30 PM
July 26, 2021

District Office – hybrid meeting
6975 Hannegan Rd

MEETING SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Board Members

Administrative Staff & Others in Attendance

- X Heather Christianson, Chair
- Suzzi Snyder, Vice-Chair
- X Valeri Wade, Secretary/Treasurer
- X Fred Berman
- X Alan Chapman

- X Frank Corey, Interim Executive Director
- X Dawn Bekenyi, District Clerk/Auditor
- X Larry Davis
- X Alex Hall
- X Nichole Embertson

Roll call of attendees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OPEN SESSION (In person or written)

None

CONSENT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY BERMAN AND SECONDED BY WADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

1. Request approval of Meeting Summary for June 2021 meeting of the Board.
2. Request approval of June 2021 Financials
3. Request certification of Farm Plans
 1. Dairy Nutrient Management Plan for Spoelstra Dairy LLC
4. Cost-share Policy for WSCC grants
5. Revised State Cost-share Ranking

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

OTHER ITEMS

1. Contract with Whirlwind Creative: Farming for Life Exhibit Project.

This is a new small project, not currently reflected in the FY2022 Budget.

Chapman moved to approve and sign the contract between Whirlwind and the WCD to provide services for the Farming for Life Exhibit. Seconded by Berman. Motion passed. (4-0)

Minutes approved as modified at the August 23, 2021 Board meeting.

2. Alex Hall, NRCS.

Alex met with Sarah Tanuvasa and Nichole Embertson. There are three funding possibilities for CNMP development, on-going assistance and sign ups and NWQI potential work. There is the potential for a Task Orders for the Conservation District to provide some CNMP planning work.

NRCS field office is done with funding EQIP projects for this year.

The federal office policy has not changed for COVID response at this point. They are not going backwards, but pausing at 50% staffing.

3. Inter-local Agreement with Walla Walla CD.

Nichole Embertson spoke to an inter-local agreement with Walla Walla County Conservation District to provide GIS, tech assistance to assist them to create NWQI modeling in Mill Creek in Walla Walla County similar to those done for Fishtrap Creek and Tenmile here. Most of the work will be done early, but the contract runs until Dec 2022.

There was questions about what was meant by modeling and how the template will be used for ranking and funding opportunities.

Wade moved to approve the Inter-Local Agreement with Walla Walla County CD to provide technical assistance to them to create NWQI modeling in Mill Creek. Seconded by Chapman. Motion passed. (4-0)

4. Sale of Research Trailer.

Nichole explained that the trailer that was housing ZAPs units that do not work is no longer needed. The Research Team is requesting to have it declared surplus. It is no longer useful for the Conservation District. The Board directed Nichole to sell it. Nichole reported on potential value. Hopefully get \$30,000.

Chapman moved to surplus the research trailer and authorize its sale seeking the maximum funding that can be received. Seconded by Berman. Motion carried. (4-0)

5. Annual Plan of Work Report for FY21.

Frank reported on the work accomplished last year based on the annual plan of work. Frank answered questions on the differences in planned and actual work accomplished for each programs. Matrix (accomplishments, not just number of farms) were reported. Alan would like to see some stories, not just numbers. Frank shared a video with the Board on salmon habitat and Kamm Creek.

The Board asked about reaching out to minority landowners and underserved individuals.

A lot of work was accomplished by the Conservation District for such a hard year.

6. Conservation Commission Grant Addendums.

The Board reviewed and approved the Conservation Commission Grant Addendums with Scope of Work for programs that the District received funding for Irrigated Eff, CREP, CTD, Hazard Mitigation & Implementation.

Minutes approved as modified at the August 23, 2021 Board meeting.

Wade moved to approve for submittal the Grant Addendums for the WSCC grants, Irrigated Efficiencies, CREP, CTD, Hazard Mitigation and Implementation. Seconded by Berman. Motion passed. (4-0)

7. District Manager Interview Coordination.

Heather shared the job description, interview questions, search feedback and scoring rubric for interviews.

The Board discussed the set of questions and the job applications.

The Board discussed what they would like to see in a District Manager. Make sure that the Board is all on the same page for what they are looking for. A leader that can provide oversight and interact with the community. They discussed skills set needed and how the District Manager's time would be spent.

Heather will assign each Supervisor with questions to ask the candidates during the interview.

Chapman move to set a special meeting for Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm for the candidate interviews subject to availability of both candidates. Motion seconded by Wade. Motion passed. (4-0)

Executive Director and Supervisor Reports.

8. Jean Fike, WSCC.

Carol Smith, WSCC Executive Director, is retiring by the end of the year. Her last working day is Oct 22, 2021.

WSCC is seeking 2022-2027 goals. They are seeking comments until August 18.

Jean spoke about the update for Executive Order 21-02 for Cultural Resources.

9. Joint Committee on Elections – CD Election Reform Comment Period.

Larry Davis provided comments as an Associate that has been involved in the election process and on the Committee for a long time. Larry provided the Board with a copy of his report.

There was discussion about the proposed changes. Conservation District's would have an election very other year. Districts would have the option to go on the general ballot.

Since they were asking for Supervisor feedback, Heather felt that all Supervisors can provide input instead of a one comment from our Board.

There was discussion regarding elections and how to address concerns that have been brought up by various entities.

10. State Conservation Commission proposed goals feedback opportunity.

The WSCC is seeking comments on their 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Development by August 16, 2021.

Larry will provide his comments and link to the entire County Strategic Plan.

Minutes approved as modified at the August 23, 2021 Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

None.

Record of Board Actions.

21-32 IT WAS MOVED BY BERMAN AND SECONDED BY WADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

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Adjournment.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAPMAN. SECONDED BY WADE:
to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 pm.
MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)**

There being no further business before the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Dawn Bekenyi, District Auditor