

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Special Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2020

Attending: Curtis Hennings; Rob Dewald; Ron Hennings; Cara Hulce (via phone); Guests: Mike Baden, WSCC

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 3:11 pm.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

Mike Baden, WSCC

- Elections

All is on track as far as the current election is concerned and Curtis will be automatically re-elected. Cara reported that all required notices have been posted. The EF-2 form can be submitted any time. Mike discussed the “big picture” elections discussions occurring at the state level and potential steps forward. He asked that we keep on the lookout for information regarding these matters from WACD or the Commission since there are bills being discussed in the legislature. Also discussed was the upcoming work on the adoption of the recommended WAC changes approved by the Commission last month. Mike noted that Michael will be submitting his AF-1 form for re-appointment ahead of the March 31 deadline.

- Supplemental Budget: Mike discussed the Governor’s supplemental budget proposal briefly. They will continue to monitor our budget requests as the legislative session moves forward. In summary:

- RCPP is fully funded at the requested amount of \$2.249m. This will support several RCPP projects currently underway with additional state match dollars. Particularly for the ACD, the Palouse CD WRIA 34 RCPP will have its full match should the legislature choose to fund at the Governor’s proposed level.
- The CREP Technical Assistance and Pilot Project request was not funded. As the state’s premier salmon habitat restoration program, it needs to be fully funded and additional funding is needed to maintain momentum in the program to meet our state’s salmon habitat restoration goals.
- The request for funding to support Community Resilience – Wildfire activities was partially funded. They requested \$349,719 and the Governor proposes \$25,000 in state match funding and \$181,000 in federal spending authority.
- They requested additional resources to support the work of the Food Policy Forum. This funding was not provided.

- Implementation Grant & Orca/Salmon Funding: Cara reported that she was recently notified by John Harder that their pipeline project, which was planned to utilize the Orca/Salmon funds, will not be able to be implemented by June 30th as the scope and cost are turning out to be too high for the funds available and the timeline is too short. The district will be submitting this project as their “next in line” priority for NRI funds should a future funding round occur. The project looks to be roughly \$90K all included. Cara will be continuing to work with Lincoln County CD on details, planning, etc. As such, a new project/use for the Orca/Salmon funds will need to be found. Although the funds could be returned to the WSCC for redistribution, all agreed that it would be better for those funds to be put on the ground within the ACD. Cara has some ideas to reach out to landowners regarding potential projects, as well as to connect with Marika at NRCS. Board members can also keep their ear to the ground for potential projects. Mike has some follow up to do on the potential use for the funds to support the continued Cow Creek monitoring work with Ducks Unlimited. As we look

toward the end of the fiscal year WSCC is asking all districts to monitor their spending and inform them of any issues as early as possible. Mike is happy to stay in touch with Cara as this develops further.

- Cow Creek Project: There was discussion about the future of the Cow Creek project. For now, ACD and Ducks Unlimited continue to move forward with the pilot and continue water monitor and look to expand monitoring where there might be opportunity. We left the last Cow Creek partnership meeting with Tina volunteering to connect with Kevin Brown to provide the data collected and confirm his continued support for the work. We discussed some ideas for project work on the creek, particularly the potential to use the Orca/Salmon funds for implementation work. Mike thinks we are too early for cost-share project work, as we need additional confirmation and support from Ecology prior to doing any construction work, but as mentioned above he will further look into the monitoring work as a potential use of the funds.
There was also the discussion about applying for a Husseman grant through Ecology for the same type of implementation work, with the same concerns being raised about being a bit too early in the process to start construction projects. Cara will try to follow up with Tina on these matters.
- Long Range Planning: February 20th at 1:00PM is scheduled for a work session with Stu to draft the new long range plan.

VSP: Mike mentioned that he heard from the Grant County CD that it appears there is agreement with Adams County on the terms of an interlocal agreement. His understanding continues to be that the Grant County CD remains open to working with ACD in whatever manner works best for the two districts in the ACD portion of the county. He encouraged the district to keep in touch with GCCD and stay in the VSP loop as much as possible. Cara said she heard from Marie and will follow up.

- Other: Mike said that the Commission will be looking to districts for feedback on options around the amendment to the RCW that would add WDFW as a voting member to the Commission.

He mentioned WSCC recently hired a new SW Regional manager and a Natural Resource Scientist that will serve as the VSP technical provider.

Mike reminded us that the Annual Plan of Work and Annual Financial report deadlines are at the end of May.

Minutes: Rob moved to approve the long range plan community meeting minutes and special board meeting minutes for November 21, 2019. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: The board decided to postpone approving financials until the February meeting, so Michael had a chance to review them. The board did sign off on Gary DeVore's settlement payment for February.

Old Business:

- District Signage: The board discussed District signage and whether or not it would be worth it to try and move the old sign. Curtis got the number of the state highway guy and will figure out how far off the road signs need to be placed.
- Mitigation Project: The board discussed receiving mitigation funding to work with WDFW to improve grasslands. Before accepting funds, the district would like an agreement in place with WDFW outlining partner expectations. Cara will work on a draft agreement.

New Business:

- Employee Review: The board discussed Pat's annual employee review and whether to give her a raise.

Ron moved to approve giving Pat a \$1/hr raise, which would make her new hourly rate \$18/hr, effective February 1, 2020. Rob seconded the motion; motion passed.

- Supervisor Awards: Mike awarded Ron (15yrs) and Curtis (35yrs) service pins in appreciation for their time as board supervisors. The district is lucky to have them and so very grateful for all their time and support!

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Please note the time change.