

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021

Attending: (Via Zoom) Curtis Hennings, Ron Hennings, Rob Dewald, Michael Broeckel; Staff: Cara Hulce; Guests: Cari Roepke (NRCS), Mike Baden (WSCC)

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:47 p.m.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

- **Cari Roepke, NRCS**
 - Cari announced they have a new soil conservationist in Davenport and they're waiting to see if the applicant for the range conservationist accepts the position in Ritzville. They are working on 19 EQIP applications (3 from Adams Co.), 7 are preapproved for the West Palouse. They received 37 CSP applications for Adams Co. and 102 for the West Palouse. With such a large workload they are looking for more help. They finalized task orders with Lincoln and Whitman CD to help with CRP planning and will be working on expired contracts in the next few weeks.
- **Mike Baden, WSCC**
 - **Budget**

The House and Senate have both released their versions of the budget for the next biennium. The good news is that we aren't seeing the deep operating budget cuts that we were anticipating throughout most of 2020. Also, the Senate included an additional \$5M in operating funding for Conservation Technical Assistance in their budget – the House did not so this difference will have to be resolved in conference committee which is getting going right now. This could be a huge benefit to districts in that the extra funds would more than double the Implementation grant to each CD. I know this is a high priority for WACD and they're working on it. It looks like we are likely to come out with \$4M for NRI grants which is status quo with our current biennium appropriation. As mentioned, those conference budget negotiations are ongoing.

Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP)

It's the time of year again when I complete an initial evaluation of each CD's accountability performance under CAPP. I currently have no concerns about Adams CD under CAPP Standard 1 (legal requirements). The big items still looming in relation to CAPP are the May 30th deadlines for both the Annual Plan of Work and the Annual Financial report to the State Auditor's office. I noted that you have the Schedule 22 internal audit scheduled.

NRI Program and Proposed Changes

The proposed changes are currently out for comment. It is a bit early to know what allocation amounts will be made available for each district as there are a number of factors that will figure into that amount, not the least of which is the final NRI amount allocated by the legislature. After reviewing comments (due April 23rd) we hope to bring the final recommendation to the Commission for approval at the May Commission meeting.

District Business

It was great to hear about the progress on several projects. The Hennings project and the Harder NRI project are both moving forward. Lincoln County CD will be providing the assistance on those projects and will be working to get a cultural resources survey completed for the Hennings project. It was good to hear that the Hans Hennings project is completed and will be closed out soon. Also, thanks for your willingness to work with the Whitman CD on the Kyle Harder feedlot project. With the Ecology funds being available it seemed to present an opportunity to work on a project that has been on the radar for a long time. It was also good to hear that the Cow Creek monitoring work continues to go well and that all parties are happy with the progress to date. It is always neat to read Tina Blewett's reports after they have been in the field.

- Cara Hulce, Manager

Cara let the board know that Hans Hennings's project installation was approved and she'll wrap up the paperwork once she gets his file from LCCD. There are 3 new projects ready for cost-share approval: 2 watering facilities for Ron Hennings and 1 well with watering facility for David Harder.

Ron and Cara attended the VSP work group meeting, GCCD is working on the 5yr report which is due in May. Cara is providing them project information for the past few years to help with the reporting.

Ecology funding for Kyle Harder's feedlot fencing became available, so WSCC is providing NRI funding to Whitman CD to use as match on the project.

Cow Creek monitoring continues to go well and everyone seems to be happy with the progress made so far.

The District's auger and drive unit sold for \$1,000 through Central Machinery.

***Minutes:* Ron moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 18, 2021. Curtis seconded the motion; motion passed.**

Financial Report: Michael moved to approve the financial report for February 2021 showing end balances of \$116,844.10 (money market) and \$129,868.97 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14158 - 14164 and all ACH/EFT transactions from February 19, 2021 – March 18, 2021. Total deductions \$10,922.69 and liability \$1,478.90. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the financial report for March 2021 showing end balances of \$116,847.08 (money market) and \$121,011.82 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14165 - 14170 and all ACH/EFT transactions from March 19, 2021 – April 15, 2021. Total deductions \$7,878.38 and liability \$1,559.34. Rob seconded the motion; motion passed.

New Business:

- Curtis reported that the catalytic converter was stolen out of the District's pick-up truck. Cara will follow up with insurance, etc.
- The board reviewed David Harder's well and watering facility project cost-share agreement (NRI & IM-Salmon funding).

Rob moved to approve David Harder's well and watering facility project cost-share agreement. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

- The board reviewed Ron Hennings's West Schwisow watering facility project cost-share agreement (IM-Salmon funding).

Rob moved to approve Ron Hennings's West Schwisow watering facility project cost-share agreement. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting.

- The board reviewed Ron Hennings's East Schwisow watering facility project cost-share agreement (IM funding).

Rob moved to approve Ron Hennings's East Schwisow watering facility project cost-share agreement. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: Cara Hulce Date: 5-20-2021

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.