

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2020

Attending via Zoom: Curtis Hennings, Michael Broeckel, Rob Dewald, Ron Hennings; Staff: Cara Hulce;
Guest: Mike Baden, WSCC

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:46 pm.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

- **Mike Baden, WSCC**
 - Budget: Commission has been instructed that, in addition to the 15% operating budget cut for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) that we have discussed previously, they are being asked to prepare the same for the upcoming biennium. It is also likely that there will be a special legislative session to address the budget. They are starting work on certain budget packages for the next biennium, but have to keep the budget shortfall in mind. They will make sure to keep districts informed as they learn of any news.
 - Annual Financial Report/Annual Plan of Work: Mike thanked us for submitting our plans and financial report ahead of schedule. He and Stu were glad to be able to help with our long-range plan. As a reminder, the plan is a living document that can be amended at any time should district priorities change.
 - Elections/Appointments: Mike mentioned that the proposed changes to the WAC rules for Conservation District elections are out for comment and public hearing dates have been scheduled. Again, these are proposed changes to the current election process and are separate from the “bigger picture” surrounding CD elections that will likely continue into the next legislative session. We can find more information about the WAC changes on Commission’s website.
 - Local Work Group: Cara provided a recap of the local work group meeting. Mike said it was a pleasure to be able to work with the W. Palouse Team. There was some board discussion about specific priority resource concerns and what they meant. He will send us a draft document with more information on many of those resource concerns.
 - Cow Creek: Mike had a chance to catch up with Tina a couple of weeks back. It was good to hear of the progress and issuing of the preliminary permit. He looks forward to hearing about the site visit scheduled for next week and hopes things are able to keep moving forward!
- **Rich Edlund, NRCS** (brief attached)
- **Cara Hulce, Manager**
 - Cara reported that all of the FY20 IM grant should be expended, except the Salmon funds which have been returned.
 - There’s still no news from WDFW regarding the ILA for the Rattlesnake Flat mitigation project.

- As mentioned above, she gave a recap of the local work group meeting and will email the board those notes.

Minutes: Ron moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 21, 2020. Rob seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Reports: Michael moved to approve the financial report for May 2020 showing end balances of \$116,590.81 (money market) and \$114,581.48 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14096 – 14100 and all ACH/EFT transactions from May 22nd – June 18th. Total deductions \$5,389.80 and liability \$971.79. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

- District Signage/Representation: Commission approved the use of our IM funding to purchase the large district/project sign for along I-90 and staff apparel with our new district logo for field activities. The board was okay with the cost estimates provided by Cara. Cara will send the board a link to the apparel distributor, so the board can decide if they'd like anything. Ideas for merchandise to promote the district will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Groundwater Monitoring: The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is providing funding to WSU to monitor groundwater level primarily within the Columbia Plateau Regional Aquifer System. Data will be collected from select wells and supplement the existing data being collected by Ecology. This project builds on Ecology's Office of Columbia River's (OCR) "Long-term water supply and demand forecast" ("the Forecast"), which is a legislatively mandated water supply and demand inventory for present and future needs. WSU is asking conservation districts to do semi-annual monitoring at select wells within their boundaries. They have initially proposed 5 wells within ACD. Their funding will cover our costs to provide outreach to landowners, monitoring equipment and training, and monitoring. The board discussed the project and agreed it would be good to participate. Cara will follow up with the grant lead investigator, Sasha McLarty (professor of civil engineering at WSU), next week to discuss details. Mike thanked us for our willingness to participate with WSU on this project and knows Sasha will appreciate the data collected in Adams County.
- WSSC FY21 July-December Addendum: The board reviewed the proposed FY21 Implementation grant (21-27-IM) addendum for July-December 2020.

Rob moved to approve the WSSC FY21 Implementation grant addendum. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

The board decided it would better fit their work schedules to meet in July and cancel the August board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 16th via Zoom at 7:30 pm.



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Adams Conservation District

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service **Report**

June 18, 2020

The USDA is allowing staff to return to the office, but customers are not allowed inside yet. Programs are rolling out as if deadlines can be met and conservation practices can still be done while following protection guidelines.

I am saddened to report that **Ritzville NRCS Soil Conservationist Kelly Petitjean resigned** from NRCS as of June 10. We expect a vacancy to replace her.

On a positive note the **new NRCS District Conservationist Cari Roepke** arrives for duty June 22!

The **General CRP** signup results from Farm Services Agency show nearly a 95% acceptance rate of applications. Field visits are to see what vegetative cover is present or what is needed to install needed cover, then a plan written. Also **Status Reviews based on field visits are required for CRP expiring in 2021.**

The **CSP Classic** (new applicants) signup had a sizeable number of applications which were screened at signup cutoff. The priority for staff work is on those ones that screen High.

The **EQIP signup** was processed into ranked applications in the new system and while fewer numbers of applications are funded, it looks like as much local-priority funds are being obligated as in prior years.

RCPPEQIP applications that screened high priority will be processed as identified in the RCPPEQIP Agreement. I don't believe any Adams county RCPPEQIP applications were taken in this signup.

The **Local Work Group "met"** on a teleconference and webinar, facilitated by the Commission RM. Their decision for the 2021 program priorities were put forward to go to program signups and to guide the NRCS's State Technical Advisory Committee.

Rich Edlund, acting District Conservationist
NRCS