

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

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

**The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:43 pm.**

**Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:**

- **Mike Baden, WSCC**
  - o Budget: Mike discussed the current state budget situation. SCC has seen from the latest budget forecast that there is a significant shortfall. For the current fiscal year they have been required to account for a 15% reduction and as we have spoken about in the past they have a plan to absorb that cut without any impact to CD implementation grants. Only 6 months of implementation funding has been authorized so far by the SCC simply because of the uncertainty in the current FY. There could still be a special session that carries the chance of additional cuts, but many things are unknown at this time, although it's looking less likely that a session will happen this year. He encourages districts to be as frugal as possible with IM grant spending for the time being as we wait for the picture to become clearer. SCC has also been directed to prepare to carry the 15% cut into the next biennium. A plan is being worked on to address the 15% cut and the Commission has planned a special meeting for August to approve it. As discussed previously they have been working on certain budget packages for the next biennium but have to keep the budget shortfall in mind. At the Commission meeting yesterday, the Commission approved moving forward with several decision packages (although a significantly lower number of packages than last biennium) including a Conservation Technical Assistance package for \$5 million in the Operating Budget. Other packages approved to move forward for submission include VSP and Food Policy (Operating Budget) as well as NRI, CREP, RCPP, Shellfish and Irrigation Efficiencies (Capital Budget).
  - o Elections and Appointments: The proposed WAC rule changes regarding district elections are out for comment. More details about the proposed changes, comment period, and public hearings can be found on their website.
  - o Annual Report of Accomplishments: Mike mentioned that the process and information needed for the Annual Report of Accomplishments will look different this year. The report and information needed will be simplified this year as many activities have been impacted by the pandemic and will likely be refined to coincide with, and highlight, the activities included in our budget requests. Be looking for more information in the near future.

- Projects: We discussed projects for the current fiscal year. Mike reminded us that the Schell NRI project is still funded but can be substituted for another capital project should Schell not be able to move forward. He was glad to hear ideas being bounced around for both NRI funds as well as Salmon/Orca funds and is happy to talk through ideas at any time. It is also exciting that forward movement continues on Cow Creek with Ducks Unlimited. The preliminary permit that has been received is a really great thing and he's happy to discuss ideas as they pop up.
- **Cari Roepke, NRCS** (brief attached)
- **Cara Hulce, Manager**
  - Cara told the board that the ACNWB inquired about potential help with scotch thistle and poison hemlock along the Palouse River.
  - The board discussed participating in a direct seed grant with Lincoln County CD and Palouse CD. The grant could also include a pilot section for cover cropping, interseeding, and livestock integration. They thought it sounded like a good idea, so Cara will work with the other districts on the DOE water quality grant application. Lincoln County CD will be the contracting district. Rob recommended reaching out to Mike Nestor with Ag Enterprise since he's been involved with other cover cropping and interseeding efforts.
  - Cara will follow up with Schell and Hennings on the status of their NRI projects.

**Minutes:** Rob moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 18, 2020. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Financial Reports:** Michael moved to approve the financial report for June 2020 showing end balances of \$116,595.59 (money market) and \$110,975.41 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14101 – 14115 (checks 14103 and 14111 voided) and all ACH/EFT transactions from June 19<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>. Total deductions \$11,739.05 and liability \$1,051.55. Rob seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- District Signage/Representation: Curtis is storing the sign for along I-90 until it can be safely installed later this year. The board brainstormed merchandise ideas to promote the district. Cara will re-send the board a link to the apparel distributor, so they board can decide if they'd like anything.
- Groundwater Monitoring: Cara followed up with Sasha McLarty (WSU project lead) and since ACD doesn't currently have anyone available to do the well monitoring, WSU will likely go ahead and do it since it's not too far out of the way and only happens twice a year. Although Cara will still do the initial outreach/survey with the landowners, it shouldn't take too much time, so a funding subcontract with WSU isn't necessary.

**New Business:**

- Cara asked the board if it was okay to set up online access to the money market account so she can get statements sooner for Pat and Account Sense, as well as be able to transfer money between accounts when needed. The board said that was fine and

Michael suggested just signing up for e-statements and that the bank might also be able to set it up so Account Sense can directly view statements.

- WCS Membership & MOU: The board discussed renewing its Washington Conservation Society membership and agreed it was a good idea. Cara will be the designated voter on behalf of the board. They reviewed the MOU for July 2020 – June 2021.

**Michael moved to approve the WCS MOU. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm by Curtis Hennings.**

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes prepared by:                     *Cara Hulce*                     Date:           9-17-2020          

**The next board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020 via Zoom at 7:30 pm.**



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## Adams Conservation District

### ***USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service*** **Report**

**July 16, 2020**

The USDA is in phase 2, which means staff in office, but doors are closed to producers. We are meeting with producers in the parking lot if necessary. State Conservationist is planning on going to phase 3 on July 22. Which means producers may come in office by appointment only. This may change if COVID cases change in the area.

#### Program updates

##### EQIP-

West Palouse team had 8 EQIP applications approved. 4 were in Adams county. Marika is getting these applications ready for signatures and obligated. Deadline for obligation is August 14, 2020.

##### CSP-

West Palouse team had 12 CSP applications approved. 2 were in Adams county. Marika is getting these applications ready for signatures and obligated. Deadline is July 31, 2020.

##### CRP-

West Palouse team is working on the field visits for the CRP signup 54. There were 243 contracts that need field visits in Adams county. We have several people who are willing to help with the work load. Glen Riehle, a Resource Conservationist from Pasco will be spending some time in Adams county. I'm currently working on a task order with Whitman Conservation District to help out as well.

Unfortunately, I am unable to meet in this zoom meeting. I plan to attend the meetings regularly and meet everyone.

Cari Roepke, District Conservationist  
NRCS