

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2018

Attending: Curtis Hennings, Michael Broeckel, Ron Hennings, Guests: Mike Bade, WSCC

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:39 pm.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

- WSCC: Mike Baden

Budget Development: WSCC is heavily into the budget development process. Summaries for approximately 16 budget decision packages went before the Commission at the July 19th meeting and all were approved for further development and submission to the Office of Financial Management for consideration by the Governor. The decision packages are in the process of being finalized and will go to a special meeting of the Commission on August 29th for final approval. Packages must be submitted by early September.

Open Government Training: Baden reported that Open Government Training is due for Cara Hulce and all the board members, except Rob DeWald. The trainings must be renewed every 4 years and all, except for Rob, will expire on 1/15/19.

Task orders: Baden discussed that Ann has presented a potential need for task order assistance in conducting field inventories and running planning tools for CSP renewals and other programs in Adams County. It sounds like there are some options both short and long term depending on what her need ends up being. Mike plans to stay in contact with Ann as much as possible on this.

Upcoming Election Season: Mike was able to confirm that Ron's position is up for election this upcoming year. The district will need to watch for election webinars that will be held this fall just to provide updates regarding the elections process.

Audit – Baden reminded the district that it is scheduled for an accountability audit. The SAO will likely be contacting the district to set that up sometime in the next few months.

- NRCS: Ann Swannack

Ann was not present but sent an email with updates regarding NRCS.

CSP: NRCS is busy completing CSP contracts in Adams County. She noted that 3 of the 5 applications were eligible and the 3 eligible applications will be funded.

EQIP: For 2018 there were 4 approved contracts where 2 were for air quality, 1 for soil quality, and 1 for on-farm energy. The total assistance being awarded for 2018 EQIP is \$185,994.

CRP: Ann noted that there are 20 CRP status reviews requested from FSA and 7 re-enrollment contracts being written. The HEL/WC status reviews for this fall total 7 at this time.

Minutes: Ron moved to approve the minutes for June 20, 2018. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: The financial reports for June and July were tabled due to a discrepancy on the July worksheet that Pat will need to revise. Checks for those months were signed.

Old Business:

- McRae Watering Facility Project: Cara sent out the cultural resource info to DAHP and the tribes for review on 8/14, they have a 30-day comment period to request a cultural resource survey. James at PRLCD reached out to Luke McRae to discuss the cost share agreement and get it signed. Cara presented the signed cost share agreement for board review and signatures upon approval.

Michael moved to approve the McRae Cost Share Agreement as presented. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

- VSP: Cara has been communicating with Elsa, District Manager of Lincoln CD, about sharing a VSP coordinator/planner. Where funding for VSP is on a year-to-year basis, Cara is looking for other work that this person may be able to do. Elsa noted that they could use that person to work on farm plans for NRCS under a task order, task orders that ACD has not been able to take on in the past due to staffing. Cara will continue to discuss this as an option with Lincoln CD.

Ben Floyd with White Bluff Consulting reported that they think the review committee will approve Adams County's VSP plan at the end of August with only a few minor changes. He suggested continuing to work with Lincoln CD to coordinate a shared VSP coordinator. He also suggested the district contact the county about getting an agreement in place for ACD to coordinate VSP for Adams County. Funding for VSP is on a biennium cycle with the current biennial concluding on 6/30/19. Ben thinks Adams County has at least \$175,000 remaining for the current biennium, so the sooner we can get an agreement with the county and a VSP coordinator hired the better. The funds can be used for reporting, VSP outreach, planning, and implementation. Cara thinks it is unlikely that the District will have a project ready for implementation, but the District could be working on program outreach and planning. Lastly, Ben noted that there will likely be an implementation workshop in October for us and our neighboring districts to collaborate on sharing resources to improve efficiencies.

- Palouse Conservation District Interlocal Agreements: Cara presented 2 new interlocal agreements with Palouse CD regarding RCPP. The agreements are basically identical with one representing the funding from NRCS and the other representing the funding from WSCC. The agreements are for FY 19.

Michael moved to approve the Interlocal Agreements (2) with Palouse Conservation District as presented. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

New Business:

- Washington Conservation Society – Leaving a Legacy: Michael noted that an email was received by Larry Davis of the Washington Conservation Society requesting a candidate who is a former conservation leader to be included in the Leaving a Legacy book. The board discussed and at this time all the individuals worthy of this are currently still living and individuals included in this publication are deceased individuals.

- Annual Report of Accomplishments: Cara prepared the 2018 Annual Report of Accomplishments that is due to WSCC by 8/24. The board reviewed the report which featured the wetland monitoring project on Cow Creek along with some other District accomplishments and noted that the content looked good.

Ron moved to approve the Annual Report of Accomplishments and allow Cara and Laura Johnson to tweak as necessary. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018 at 7:30 pm.