

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

Attending: Curtis Hennings; Michael Broeckel; Rob Dewald; Ron Hennings; Gary Cook; Cara Hulce (via phone) / **Guests:** Mike Baden, WSCC; Marika Kearsley, NRCS

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:35 pm.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

- Mike Baden, WSCC
 - o Elections: Just a reminder regarding the upcoming elections webinar on Sept. 26th. Also, a note that there will be an opportunity for more in-depth discussion about district elections in general at the area meetings as well as the WACD annual meeting. We also expect to see an update memo on elections coming out to districts soon via GovDelivery.
 - o Implementation Grant –Orca/Salmon Funding: We hope to be able to provide the reporting form for the Orca/Salmon focused funding in the near future. Be on the lookout as we hope it will help districts to be thinking about the reportables.
 - o Technical Assistance One-Pager: A one-page fact sheet about the importance of technical assistance funds for CDs has recently been developed. I have attached more information. We are hopeful it will be helpful to CDs as they have discussions with decision makers.
 - o Area Meeting: As mentioned, the Area Meeting is scheduled for October 17th in Mansfield.

- Marika Kearsley, NRCS
 - o Marika introduced herself to Adams CD as the new RC and shared with the group what brought her to Adams County NRCS.
 - o EQIP & CSP: Adams County received 2 EQIP contracts and 2 CSP contracts in the latest funding. One CSP-CCI application is pending approval. There may be opportunity for 1-year extensions on 2015 CSP contracts, but only those that haven't been renewed previously, Adams County has 2. There has not been any guidance for 2014 CSP contract renewals. NRCS is accepting EQIP & CSP applications year-round and the new ranking program will come out later this fall.
 - o Certifications: The deadline for certifications are Friday September 20th for the current fiscal year.
 - o Payment Programs: The payment program that NRCS uses will be down the last week of September through the 1st week of October for a scheduled maintenance.
 - o HEL Compliance: Glenn Riehle will be starting field visits soon for HEL compliance.
 - o DC (Formerly Ann Swannack): NRCS has not hired a replacement for the departure of Ann Swannack and a timeline has not yet been made.

Minutes: Rob moved to approve the minutes for July 25, 2019. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: Michael moved to approve the financial report for July 2019 showing end balances of \$116,403.06 (money market) and \$115,935.39 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14031 - 14035 and all ACH/EFT transactions from July 26th– August 15th. Total deductions \$3,956.47 and liability \$416.74. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

Michael moved to approve the financial report for August 2019 showing end balances of \$116,408.00 (money market) and \$119,033.45 (checking), and to approve checks numbered 14036 - 14043 and all ACH/EFT transactions from August 16th – September 19th. Total deductions \$3,025.80 and liability \$466.90. Rob seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

- VSP: VSP in Adams County is still on hold as the county/WSCC work on a contract for the new fiscal year. There has been discussion about Adams CD and Grant County CD having conversations about any role ACD would like to have or assistance that they would like to provide for VSP in the ACD boundaries. Once the situation with the VSP contract is worked out, it is anticipated that ACD and GCCD to will collaborate on the path forward.
- Duck Unlimited: Cara reported that Tina Blewett gave her the cost for continued water monitoring on Cow Creek for a second year. The cost to have 3 readings (Oct, Feb & June) would be \$7,400 while the cost for 2 readings would be \$4,900. Cara noted that the funding for this could come from the Implementation grant Outcome 2 funding for the fiscal year.

Michael made a motion to approve funding for 3 water monitoring site visits by Ducks Unlimited totaling \$7,400. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

- ACD Long Range Plan: It was decided that Thursday, November 21st from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM will be the date and time for the Long Range Planning Community meeting. It is planned to be held in the Wheat Growers building. The Community meeting will be followed by the board meeting at 4:00. There was good discussion about the approach to the community meeting. More discussion about the outreach/invitation strategy will occur at the October board meeting.
- WCS MOU: The board reviewed the MOU presented by the Washington Conservation Society and designated Cara Hulce as ACD's designated voter.

Michael made a motion to approve the MOU with Washington Conservation Society. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

- Projects: Cara gave a run-down of potential projects that have been identified.
 - o **Jon Harder** has a project that seems to be a good fit for the Orca/Salmon funding in the Implementation grant. The project includes an extension of livestock watering pipeline to different pastures. The landowner is currently working on cost estimates.
 - o **Kurt Schell** has the need for a windbreak around his residence that qualifies as a NRI project. Cara reported that she has been talking with Lincoln County CD about the using their services for technical assistance. Lincoln County CD's assistance worked well for project implementation in the last biennium. This could be a good approach that is of benefit to everyone involved and a good show of cooperation between districts. Cara hopes to have a draft inter-district agreement at the October meeting.

- **Kyle Harder's** feedlot project in conjunction with Whitman CD was discussed briefly, but no notable updates were made at this time.

New Business:

- Pomeroy CD MOU: The board reviewed and discussed an updated MOU with Pomeroy CD for engineering services for FY 20.

Michael made a motion to approve the MOU with Pomeroy CD for FY 20 as presented. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

- PRLCD & DOE Direct Seed Program: The board reviewed and discussed 2 landowner agreements for a direct seed program being managed by Palouse Rock Lake CD. The agreements are with landowners Randy Gust & Tim Gescke.

Rob made a motion to approve the direct seed landowner agreements for Gust and Gescke as presented. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

- East Columbia Basin Irrigation District: The board reviewed and discussed a letter from Jed Crowther with ECBID regarding a potential grant funding opportunity. A copy of the letter is attached. No action was needed on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 17th, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 18, 2019

Dear Conservation Districts and Supporting Entities:

Please review the following information regarding a potential grant funding opportunity:

Participation

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) was invited by National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to participate in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP); to support continued work for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP). Please review attached OGWRP and RCPP materials.

Interest

The District recently hosted Kevin Norton, Associate Chief of NRCS, for an on-site project tour, arranged primarily through outreach by Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Tom Tebb, Office of Columbia River, Department of Ecology (OCR).

Collaboration

Likewise, the District appreciates the vital connection to the Conservation Districts in our region, spanning four counties, and seeks for cohesive collaboration to advance the RCPP application. We recognize that the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition, led by Ben Serr from Department of Commerce, has created an excellent core support group, with the intent to target Bureau of Reclamation grant opportunities by stakeholders.

Correlation

This new grant opportunity through NRCS complements the work performed by the Coalition, as well as continued sustained advocacy by the Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL). It also correlates with key funding provided by the State of Washington Department of Ecology. The newly-identified opportunities for federal funding were created as Reclamation revised the cost-benefit ratio for the OGWRP, to now qualify and submit supplemental funding requests.

Direction

For RCPP, we appreciate input from Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District Manager, who created a successful RCPP in 2017. She is willing to be a resource for conservation districts by informing of implementation practices that have proven successful. She reported that the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) data and maps from each county could provide valuable application details, together with related review features developed recently by the Coalition. Methods to lead the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may also be considered.

Focus

By initial review, East District would be the primary applicant for RCPP with support by Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln County Conservation Districts. Staff contacts are listed on the back. The District has contacted most of the stakeholders and received positive feedback. As details are determined, we will inform of next steps, including maps/data and potential support letters. We welcome your input and appreciate your genuine interest to work together.

Thank you,



Jed Crowther
Development Coordinator