

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
HELD REMOTELY OVER ZOOM
Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman, Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting on Zoom or by telephone were as follows: Jim Baye, Josh Sherwood, Braidy Haden and Chris Laney - LCCD Supervisors; Mark Stedman, Lincoln County Commissioner; Mike Baden, Conservation Commission; Ryan Baye, WACD; Elsa Bowen, Val Vissia, Connor Nikkola, Delaini Disher, and Dean White - LCCD staff.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

- **1. Braidy moved to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes as amended. Chris seconded. Discussion was held. One correction was requested. On page 4 under District Vehicle Mileage Review and Replacement, “viny floormats” needed to be changed to “vinyl floormats”. Motion passed.**

B. TREASURER’S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- **2. Jim moved to pay and approve 2020 vouchers #11339 to #11338, along with 14 EFT’s, totaling \$25,649.33. Braidy seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **3. Jim moved to pay and approve 2021 vouchers #11352 to #11366, along with 85 EFT’s, totaling \$8,581.37. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. It was noted that 70 orders for the 2021 Tree Sale had already been received as of yesterday, and that many of the EFT’s were for online sales processed through Square. Motion passed.**
- **4. Jim moved to submit voucher #17 for the VSP 3 grant in the amount of \$2,636.24 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**
- **5. Jim moved to submit voucher #7 for the 21-39-IM grant in the amount of \$5,375.61 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**
- **6. Jim moved to submit voucher #18 for the 20-39-NR grant in the amount of \$249.40 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**
- **7. Jim moved to submit voucher #15 for the Well Monitoring grant in the amount of \$16,726.71 to DOE. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Josh asked if the remaining \$59,000+ left in the Well Monitoring grant was expected to be used by June 30. Elsa noted that all of the remaining funding**

should be used up with the remaining data entry work and field work, the development of the final grant technical report by GeoEngineers, and the funding reserved to help teach EIM data entry for the BOR/WSU Eastern Washington well level monitoring grant. Motion passed.

- *8. Jim moved to submit voucher #10 for the Direct Seed grant in the amount of \$42,660.88 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *9. Jim moved to submit voucher #9 for the Mielke grant in the amount of \$5,247.13 to DOE. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *10. Jim moved to submit voucher #5 for the Hwy 25 grant in the amount of \$207.40 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *11. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for November 25, 2020 through December 23, 2020 be approved. The total amount owed was \$218.27. Chris seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- *12. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Cenex credit card statement with a closing date of December 10, 2020. The total amount owed was \$158.58. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*

Delaini will be mailing out the bank statements for the board members to initial. Elsa requested that each board member initial the statements and mail them on to the next board member in a timely manner.

The Board reviewed the report of the current annual leave/sick leave balances for District employees.

- *13. Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Grant's report as presented. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*

C. AGENDA

County Commissioner Report

Commissioner Stedman reported that Jeff Barkdull has been sworn in as Superior Court judge and Adam Walser has been sworn in as County Prosecutor. The county has enacted weight restrictions on some county roads to help prevent damage caused by heavy loads such as grain hauling semi-trucks. The county computer network has been pretty much restored following the recent hacking attack. The county insurance company is offering 1 year protection and reimbursement for those residents who may have had their personal identity compromised by the hacking attack.

Mark asked for an update on the Voluntary Stewardship Program in the county. Connor reported that the 4 projects in the county funded by the VSP program need to be completed by the June 30, 2021 deadline. One project has been completed and is in the process of getting reimbursed. The other projects will proceed forward with better weather in the spring. Val noted that the 5-year report is on task and on schedule. Meetings have been held by teleconference twice a month and the draft report will be released by the week of February 15 for comment and review.

RCW 89.08 Review

Hard copies of RCW 89.08 were provided to board members for the required yearly annual review. Jeff asked why the language in section 89.08.190 still states that board supervisor candidates were still required to obtain a list of 25 signatures supporting their candidacy when this requirement was deleted last year. Ryan noted that he will review this section of 89.08 and bring it forward through WACD for review and update.

2021 Tree Sale Update

Elsa reported that the refrigerated trailer for the tree sale has been reserved and will be delivered to the fairgrounds starting the third week of March. Tree sale orders have been arriving pretty fast with 70 orders received in January already.

District Vehicle Replacement Update

The new four door 4WD Chevrolet pickup has been ordered and will be built in early February, with delivery expected by the middle to end of February. Once the new pickup has arrived at the office, the white 4 door pickup will be advertised for sale.

Cost Share Approval

Hardcopies of the Cost Share Action spreadsheet were distributed. There was one request for cost share reimbursement from the Direct Seed grant.

14. Josh moved to approve the Cost Share Action spreadsheet as presented. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association Sponsorship

Connor has researched the current Direct Seed grant and confirmed that the grant is able to pay up to \$1,500 to help cosponsor the upcoming Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association conference scheduled for June at the Whitman County Fairgrounds near Colfax.

15. Chris moved to approve the allocation of \$1,500 from the current Direct Seed grant to cosponsor the upcoming PNDSA Conference scheduled for June at the Whitman County Fairgrounds near Colfax. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.

PNW Canola Association Membership

Josh noted the Karen Sowers with the Pacific Northwest Canola Association has been promoting more involvement from local organizations and agencies to support the activities of the PNW Canola Association. Josh asked board members to consider supporting the PNW Canola Association and its efforts to promote canola as a viable alternative crop that producers in Lincoln County can and have used in rotation with

wheat crops. Lincoln County CD could support the PNW Canola Association with an annual Agency membership for \$100. The PNW Canola Association will be hosting a virtual canola workshop on February 9 – 10 at no cost to participants. Josh will contact Karen and have her forward more information on Agency membership and the upcoming virtual workshop to Elsa to forward to board members and staff.

Office Stamps Update

Elsa reported that FSA has switched from using Stamps.com to using Pitney-Bowles for postage. With the District not able to share the postage services anymore with FSA, separate postage service with Stamps.com has been obtained for \$17.99 per month that will be able to use the existing Stamps.com meter and software that the District already has in place.

Updates to Policy Manual

Hard copies of the two proposed updates to the Policy Manual were distributed. The first update notes that a yearly sexual harassment training course will be assigned by the Manager and must be completed by January 31 each year. The second update involves the removal of PayPal and replacement with Square as the third-party electronic payment system that will be used for District programs such as the annual tree sale.

16. Josh moved to approve the proposed edits to the Policy Manual as presented. Chris seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS Report

Elsa noted that Cari will be working on the development of a new task order for the new general CRP signup that is open from January 4 – February 12 this year. District staff would need to be up to date on other grant work due by the end of the fiscal year June 30 in order focus on the CRP task order work.

NRCS-WA will be advertising soon for a Range Conservationist position in the Ritzville field office and a Soil Conservationist in the Davenport field office.

NRCS and FSA staff (and District staff) will be working in the current building in Davenport until at least 2023, but if there is not improved cooperation and coordination from the current building owner, all agencies may be looking to move out and into another building with better arrangements. One big issue identified with moving to another building is that there currently is not any other suitable building in Davenport that would be suitable for field office use.

Other Grants Update

Elsa reported WDFW is working to secure funding to offer grants to affected landowners for repairing damage to wildlife habitat caused by the Whitney Fire. The grant funding has not been secured yet and the amount of grant funding available to individual landowners is not known either at this time, but grant awards are expected to be relatively small.

Elsa is ready to submit a \$100,000 WaterSMART grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation for funding to establish the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition as a working and viable organization seeking to obtain and maintain sustainable water supplies for Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln counties that were

part of the original GWMA (Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Area) study area.

WACD Update

Ryan reported that he and Executive Director Tom Salzer have been busy working on issues with the current Legislative session. Another project that Ryan has been working on is the search for another Area Director from the NE region. Jeff is currently serving as one of the directors from the 5 county NE region, but Mike Mumford from Pend Oreille CD has recently accepted a new position as WACD Vice-President and had to resign from his position as NE Area Director through the end of 2021. The primary responsibilities of an Area Director are to participate in WACD Board of Director meetings, which have now been switched from quarterly meetings to monthly meetings in the evening on the third Monday of each month. With all current meetings being held on Zoom, the monthly time commitment from Area Directors is small. Ryan is also speaking with the other 4 CD's in the NE Area for nominations from them for the second NE Area Director position. If board members have questions about the Area Director position, they can speak with Ryan or with Jeff.

In the current Legislative session, the House is working on fast tracking a bill that addresses needed updates to the OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act) with the current COVID-19 pandemic. The legislative session this year will be all virtual. Citizens can watch all of the sessions online and provide limited testimony online. WACD is currently seeking to identify one week in February when board supervisors from CD's can communicate remotely to their local legislative representatives and promote the value of conservation activities implemented and enhanced by their respective conservation district.

The annual NACD meeting will be held virtually this year from February 1 – 10. WACD is offering to pay the registration costs for one board director from each CD across the state who would like to participate in the NACD meeting this year. Mike Crowder from Richland will be sworn in this year as the new NACD President. If board members are interested in attending the virtual NACD meeting, please contact Ryan before the end of next week.

Conservation Commission Report

Mike Baden reported that there should be no changes for conservation districts with the new Healthy Washington program. The recently received Governor's budget has turned out better than expected for the Conservation Commission, with only 5% budgets cuts instead of the 15% budget cuts originally planned for by the Commission. One million dollars leftover from the previous biennium budget have been allowed to carry over into the new biennium budget for the Commission. In addition, the budget allocated for the NRI (Natural Resources Investment) has been increased from \$3 million to \$7 million for the Conservation Commission in the new biennium. The Conservation Commission did not receive all the funding that it had requested for RCCP, but overall the allocations to the Commission in the Governor's budget have turned out well considering the current COVID-19 pandemic.

For elections, WACD and the Conservation Commission will be coming together to form a joint committee to propose changes to the elections for board supervisors and report back at the Conservation Commission meeting in September 2021. A joint task order webinar will be hosted by the Conservation Commission and NRCS on next

Wednesday. NRCS is projected to have a large need for assistance in completing its share of the workload for the new general CRP signup.

Mike thanked Lincoln County CD for agreeing to assist with the Hazard Mitigation training that has been tentatively scheduled for early April. The Conservation Commission has received funding from FEMA for fire hazard training that is scheduled for May 3 – May 6. Contact Ben Peterson with Spokane CD for more information on fire risk assessment for homes. After the start of the next fiscal year, there may be funding available for CD's to conduct new fire risk assessments for homes in their district.

Alan Stromberger Memorial Update

Elsa has tried several times to contact the ag science and ag shop instructor for Sprague High School about doing something to benefit the ag program with the memorial funding received for Alan Stromberger, but has not heard back yet from the instructor. Elsa will try again next week to get in touch with the ag instructor. Chris suggested that if the District does not hear back from the ag instructor, the District should contact the new Sprague fire district/emergency services station and ask if there is anything such as additional landscaping that the District could do for the station, as Alan was instrumental in helping to obtain the funding need for building the new fire station in Sprague. Mark asked to be kept updated on the District's efforts with the Alan Stromberger memorial.

Miscellaneous Items

Elsa announced that next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, which is the same day as Elections. At this time Josh is running unopposed for the elected board supervisor position. Elsa reminded the board members that anyone wishing to vote in the election needs to contact District staff and request an absentee mail in ballot by January 10.

Dean described the 2020 calendar year precip maps and spreadsheets that he just emailed to the board members. The first version of the 2020 calendar year precip maps and spreadsheets includes the yearly precip at each of the 22 precip cooperator stations along with the May 2020 precip, as the precip in May turned out to be the overall highest precip month for the year. The second version compares the 2020 precip versus the 2019 precip received at each station. For the drier and more southerly or northwestern precip stations, more precip was received in 2020 compared to 2019. Dean just emailed and/or mailed the 2020 calendar year precip maps to all of the cooperators who collected precip totals for their station. Hard copies of the 11 X 17" maps and the spreadsheets can be printed on the office copier for anyone who like hard copies of the 2020 calendar year precip data.

FSA Report

There was no report from FSA.

Public Comment

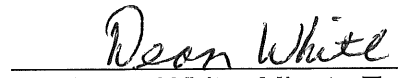
There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jeff Schibel at 9:39 AM. The next board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 starting at 8:30 AM. February 10 is also the same day that Elections will be held. It is not known yet if the meeting will be conducted over Zoom or will be held in person.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Sherwood, Secretary



Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 16 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes as amended.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve 2020 vouchers #11339 to #11338, along with 14 EFT's, totaling \$25,649.33.
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