

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
USDA Service Center Conference Room – Davenport, WA
Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM by Chairman, Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting in person or by phone were as follows: Jim Baye, Chris Laney, and Braidy Haden - LCCD Supervisors; Elsa Bowen, Brean Nieman, and Dean White - LCCD staff.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

- *1. Chris moved to approve the July 10, 2024 minutes as amended. Jim seconded. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.*

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- *2. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #12486 to #12551, along with 45 EFT's, totaling \$225,964.66. Braidy seconded. Discussion was held. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.*
- *3. Jim moved to submit voucher #7 for the 24-39-FH grant in the amount of \$308.87 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *4. Jim moved to submit voucher #8 for the 24-39-FH grant in the amount of \$10,817.67 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *5. Jim moved to submit voucher #9 for the 24-39-FH grant in the amount of \$4,352.36 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *6. Jim moved to submit voucher #10 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$45.16 to Adams Conservation District. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *7. Jim moved to submit voucher #11 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$84.42 to Adams Conservation District. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *8. Jim moved to submit voucher #5 for the 24-39-IE grant in the amount of \$0.00 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *9. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the 24-39-IE grant in the amount of \$0.00 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*

- 10. Jim moved to submit voucher #7 for the 24-39-IE grant in the amount of \$147.81 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 11. Jim moved to submit voucher #13 for the 24-39-NR grant in the amount of \$80.40 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 12. Jim moved to submit voucher #14 for the 24-39-NR grant in the amount of \$24.79 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 13. Jim moved to submit voucher #15 for the 24-39-NR grant in the amount of \$177.89 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.
- 14. Jim moved to submit voucher #19 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$1,181.07 to Stevens CD. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 15. Jim moved to submit voucher #20 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$1,815.98 to Stevens CD. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 16. Jim moved to submit voucher #21 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$9,118.84 to Stevens CD. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
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- 18. Jim moved to submit voucher #8 for the NE Lincoln Well Monitoring grant in the amount of \$10,011.05 to DOE. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 19. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the 25-39-IM grant in the amount of \$33,595.57 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.
- 20. Jim moved to submit voucher #2 for the 25-39-IM grant in the amount of \$18,229.06 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.
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- 24. Jim moved to submit voucher #15 for the VSP-5 grant in the amount of \$11,759.60 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- 25. Jim moved to submit voucher #9 for the Direct Seed 3 grant in the amount of \$17,754.31 to DOE. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.
- 26. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for June 26, 2024 through July 23, 2024 be approved. The total amount owed was \$16,937.63. Braidy seconded. Discussion was held. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.
- 27. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for July 24, 2024 through August 23, 2024 be approved. The total amount owed was \$3,965.09. Braidy seconded. Discussion was held. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.
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- 30. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of July 31, 2024. The total amount owed was \$173.58. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
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- 33. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of September 15, 2024. The total amount owed was \$208.80. Chris seconded. Motion passed.

- **34. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of September 30, 2024. The total amount owed was \$163.96. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**

After reviewing the statements, the Board members initialed each page of the bank statements for the checking and money market accounts.

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

Elsa reported that Brean had recently rolled over a CD for the District at WA Federal Bank in Odessa for a 4.65% interest rate for the next 7 months. Jim asked if Lincoln CD could invest funds in US Treasury Bills. Elsa noted that the District should be eligible to buy US Treasury bills as long as they are FDIC insured.

- **35. Jim moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Grant's report as presented. Chris seconded. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.**

C. AGENDA

NE Area Meeting

Elsa announced that the NE Area Meeting will be held in Spokane and hosted by Spokane CD on Tuesday, October 15. Elsa, Delaini and Elayne will be attending along with Brean and Matthew for the first time to experience the proceedings in the annual NE Area meetings. Delaini has created and will present a PowerPoint presentation on District activities at the meeting. A basket of soaps that were handmade in Davenport will be given away as part of the door prizes.

Hard copies of the NE Area Meeting agenda along with one resolution from the District to present at the meeting were distributed. The resolution contains a proposal to change the CRP Handbook to allow conservation districts to submit a signature waiver opting out of signing CRP conservation plans. The proposed resolution language is as follows: "WHEREAS, FSA provides districts with the option to sign conservation plans. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NACD will work with FSA to amend their CRP plan signature requirement policy to allow districts to opt out of signing conservation plans." Elsa noted that Mike Baden assisted with the wordsmithing of the resolution and that the other NE Area CD's who have been sent and have reviewed the resolution have agreed with the language and intent of the resolution.

State Land Judging Contest

Lincoln County CD has been asked and has agreed to host the 2024 State Land Judging Contest, which has now been scheduled for Wednesday, October 30. Initial planning and the assembling of needed supplies have proceeded on schedule, but

some delays have been raising concerns about making it possible to successfully host the contest as planned. District staff were finally able to find a landowner who said he would be willing to host the contest, but the landowner has also been tied up with finishing seeding and has not yet been available to help find and approve the digging of the 4 identified soil pit sites that are needed for the contest on his land. Jim noted that he would be willing to host the contest on his farmland near Reardan. Dean noted that he would work on printing maps of this alternative contest area after the meeting and look for prospective soil pit sites by the end of the week.

Elsa noted that the local Potty Barn company would need to be contacted again to see if they would supply porta-potties to the new alternative site. In addition, the meeting place for the school buses, the parking places for the buses, and contacting 811 to rule out any underground utilities at the pit sites needs to be completed very soon for the contest preparations to continue to proceed as planned. Elsa also noted that funding from the 25-39-IM grant would be used to help pay for hosting the contest, and that if it looks like it will be raining around the day of the contest, she is looking into ordering a zippered tent to grade the contest cards for each of the 4 pits.

Interlocal Agreement with CBCD

Elsa reported that a preliminary interlocal agreement had been developed with Columbia Basin Conservation District over the summer to provide well level monitoring assistance to CBCD as requested and to be reimbursed for District time from CBCD. A motion was needed to approve this interlocal agreement.

36. Braidy moved to approve the interlocal agreement to provide well level monitoring assistance to Columbia Basin Conservation District as presented. Chris seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

FLAG Municipalities Interlocal Agreement

FLAG is the new acronym being used by the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition to name the 4 counties in the CBSWC (Franklin, Lincoln, Adams, and Grant counties). Elsa noted that Lincoln County CD has been working in partnership with CBSWC to write a Request for Proposals to seek the development of a technical work group to address recommendations to the current Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) legislation. Cities within the CBSWC have offered a total of \$10,000 to hire a consultant to facilitate this work.

Requests for Proposals

Three hard copies for 3 different Requests for Proposals (RFP's) were distributed. The first RFP seeks proposals to provide CBSWC with coordination and legislative advocacy services to establish a technical work group to study and provide recommendations for possible new legislation regarding the regulatory framework for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects in the state. A main goal of this effort is to make ASR projects in the state more feasible to implement while still protecting local aquifers and the environment. Proposals must be emailed to Elsa by 4 PM on October 15.

The second RFP seeks proposals to facilitate and assist Lincoln County CD with developing a local drought planning and preparedness plan for the municipalities in Franklin, Lincoln, Adams, and Grant counties (FLAG). Proposals must be mailed or emailed to Elsa by 4 PM on October 31.

The third RFP seeks proposals for an Update Facilitator to facilitate and assist Lincoln County CD with developing an updated and approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which will be used in accordance with the Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan to aid in planning and prioritizing wildfire risk reduction work at the county level. Proposals must be mailed or emailed to Matthew by 4 PM on October 31.

37. Chris moved to approve the 3 RFP's as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

Elections Update

Delaini and Brean watched the latest elections webinars from the Conservation Commission and have been trained to run the elections process for the District for the upcoming elections in March 2025. Braidy is up for election and Chris is up for reappointment. Chris raised questions about board member continuity if he and other older board members start retiring. Chris suggested that the Board start the search for new prospective board members across the different areas of the county and diversify the board by getting women to seek election/appointment to the Board. Chris noted that he would only run for 1 more term on the board and that he would not serve as Chairman. Jim noted that his current term would be his last term serving as a board member which will end in about 3 years.

Jim suggested that the District offer to help reimburse the costs for prospective new board members to attend the upcoming Annual WACD meeting in November and Elsa noted that the District should be able to pay for this with current grant funding. The names of three possible new board member candidates were discussed and it was suggested that board members work to plant the seed of becoming new board member in these new candidates. Braidy suggested that a livestock producer in the county be encouraged to become a board member to help diversify the board.

Elsa asked if the Board would like to see information on District programs and services printed on the back of March elections ballot again, and the answer was yes.

Copy Machine Contract Renewal

Elsa reported that the current Ricoh copy machine was reaching the end of its current 10-year lease with the District. Hard copies of the quote from Ricoh for a new Ricoh IM C4510 copier were distributed. The 60 month/5 year lease would be \$239.54 per month and would include delivery, set up, training, all supplies except paper, and removal of the old copier. The current copier rental rate of \$190.67 per month plus black and white along with color copier costs per page adds up to about \$260 total cost per month.

38. Jim moved to approve the quote for a new Ricoh IM C4510 copier as presented and to replace the current 10-year old copier with the new copier for the 60 month lease rate of \$239.54 per month. Chris seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

Cost Share Action Approval

Hard copies of the October 9 Cost Share Action spreadsheet were distributed. There were five completed Forest Health home fire protection projects requesting cost share payment along with a grassed waterway and a direct seeding cost share payment. Matthew noted that some of the fire protection projects included "home hardening"

projects which involve the installation of a 5 ft. wide and several inch thick band of gravel all around a house to help prevent wildfire spread to the house.

39. Jim moved to approve the Cost Share Action spreadsheet as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

Grants and Projects Update

Hard copies of two grant amendments received for approval were distributed. Elayne applied for and received an additional \$10,000 in funding for the 24-39-IE (Irrigation Efficiency) grant from the Conservation Commission. This \$10,000 will primarily be used to develop 5 water efficiency and 3 leaking irrigation system grant projects. Money from the 24-39-IE grant can also be used to help pay for the drilling of livestock watering project wells.

40. Chris moved to approve the 24-39-IE grant amendment as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

Elayne also applied for and received an additional \$25,000 in funding for the Sustainable Farms and Fields (SFF) grant. This funding will primarily be used to help cover the costs for District staff to engage with interested landowners, conduct site visits, develop comprehensive management grants for cooperators, and conduct education and information outreach. As with the 24-39-IE grant, this grant will run until June 30, 2025. Delaini has already developed a flyer to promote the SFF grant. Jim suggested that the flyer be placed in Lincoln Advertiser in color to help advertise the SFF grant.

41. Jim moved to approve the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant amendment as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

The Forest Health (FH) grant is proceeding forward as expected. Elsa has submitted an application to Ecology to extend the NE Lincoln County Well Level Monitoring grant for another year to December 30, 2025. If the grant extension is approved, Kevin Lindsey with GeoEngineers has requested that another \$4,500 be allocated to GeoEngineers to help cover the cost of interpreting the results and compiling the final grant report.

42. Braidy moved to approve the application to extend the NE Lincoln County Well Level Monitoring grant for one more year and to allocate an additional \$4,500 to GeoEngineers to complete the final grant report. Jim seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

It was also noted that grant applications have been submitted to the Conservation Commission for \$30,000 to help fund the 2-mile Jacobsen fencing repair project and \$38,000 for a Reinbold Road area fence rebuild project to repair damage caused by the Reinbold Road Fire.

WACD Report and Annual Meeting

The WACD Annual Meeting will be on December 2-4th this year at the nearby Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights. The nightly room cost is \$127 and there is grant funding available to pay for Board member travel and food costs to attend the meeting. Elsa encouraged all Board members planning to attend the meeting to contact her and she will make room reservations at Northern Quest. Jeff proposed that District staff attend the meeting in person or attend by Zoom.

Jeff noted that Mike Mumford with Pend Oreille CD will be retiring as WACD President and Amy McKay with Whitman CD is running for WACD President. Jeff is running for WACD Vice-President.

Water Issues

Elsa reported that some residents and well owners in the Rock Creek area had contacted Ecology and the District with concerns that a newer irrigation well in the area is or may be adversely affecting their well water levels and that surface water levels in Rock Creek have been significantly reduced or eliminated in the summer and early fall while the irrigation well is running. A group of 5 residents in the adjacent Rock Creek area had already contacted Ecology and filled out ERTS (Environmental Report Tracking System) reports. Ecology forwarded their concerns to Elsa. Since these wells are within or close to the far southeast border of the NE Lincoln County Well Level grant, Dean was asked to contact these residents in August and measure their well levels. Dean measured these wells primarily with District sonic meters but was able to feasibly measure two wells with an Etape. The results were mixed, with most of the domestic wells slightly above the well log static well level (SWL), one livestock well and one small irrigation well below the well log SWL, one livestock well with well levels that have been dropping so much that it is not able supply water to the livestock water trough in summer and early fall, and one domestic well with only a foot of water left and pumping air frequently. Dean will be measuring these seven wells again in fall and record any changes in the well water levels.

2023 – 2024 Crop Year Precipitation

Hard copies of the 2023 – 2024 crop year precip spreadsheets and map were distributed. The 2023-2024 to 2022-2023 crop year precip totals comparison and cumulative precip average spreadsheet and map showed that the vast majority of precip stations had less precip for the 2023-2024 crop year compared to 2022-2023, and less to significantly less precip than the long term cumulative average precip for each corresponding station.

Dean also distributed an updated chart for well BIU506 that showed that the well water level had just turned the corner in late September and had started to recover. The chart also showed that the overall drier precip years from 2021 thru 2024 so far with low or now runoff events in spring were associated with summer/early fall well water levels that were about 1.5 ft. lower than the higher precip years with larger runoff events (and a longer, more spread-out runoff flow in 2017) for late 2016 through 2020.

Miscellaneous

Delaini, Elayne, Brean, and Matthew attended the recent Conservation Commission tour and meeting hosted by Okanogan CD. Delaini, Brean, Matthew, and Dean attended the Stevens CD land judging contest on October 3rd southwest of Deer Park to assist with the contest and become familiar with how land judging contests work and what will be required for the State Land Judging Contest to be hosted by Lincoln County CD at the end of October.

Jim noted that 4-5 years ago he took the new Director of Ecology on a tour of his farm and showed how direct seeding of wheat is done. Jim recently showed another 5 Ecology employees how direct seeding practices are done on the farm and what it

takes to successfully grow direct seeded wheat. The Ecology employees received a good in person opportunity to see how Ecology funded direct seed grants can be implemented on farms around Eastern Washington.

Conservation Commission Report

There was no Conservation Commission Report.

NRCS Report

There was no NRCS Report.

FSA Report

There was no NRCS Report.

County Commissioners Report

There was no County Commissioners Report.

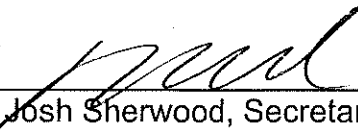
Request for Public Comment

Jeff asked if there was any more public comment for the meeting. There was no public comment.

Chairman Jeff Schibel adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

The November board meeting will be held two weeks late on November 26 and the December board meeting will be held one week late on December 18 in order to have as many board members present as possible. The November meeting is more important meeting for a quorum due to annual employee reviews scheduled for November instead of December this year.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Sherwood, Secretary



Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 42 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the July 10, 2024 minutes as amended.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #12486 to #12551, along with 45 EFT's, totaling \$225,964.66.
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