



Columbia Basin Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023 – 1:00 PM

In Person and Teleconference

Attendance:

Supervisors – Dave Stadelman (Chair), Dan Roseburg, Glenn Burkholder, John Preston, Richard Leitz

Staff - Kristina Ribellia, Elliott DeLong (Recorder), Harold Crose, Britton Baker, Dinah Gadberry

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSCC)

Call to Order and Introductions: D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Public Input: No public input.

Approval of December 13th, 2022, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes: Correction - None

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the December 13th, 2022, as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Approval of January 10th, 2023, Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by E. DeLong – Reviewed monies owed or owing and current grants through July, including fiscal year 23. Financial topics including burn permits, funds received, grant funding, DOE, WSCC, EPA and NACD grant, cost share allocations, pass-through money, implementation grants, VSP, SFF, livestock funding, NRCS, VSP Supplemental funds, and DOE Burn Applications.

Motion by J. Preston to accept the January 10th, 2023, Financial report as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. Grant County checks #11113- 11155 totaling \$78,291.37. Payroll checks #11113-11123 totaling \$20,715.39 and #11134-11146 totaling \$20,538.47 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)– Baden –The 2023 legislative session started 1/9/2023. There are a number of things changing with possible budget, salmon recovery being a large part of that. Additions to technical assistance, riparian buffers, and other aspects of the budgets are likely to be within the realm of contention. CBCD may see a benefit if additional funding comes from salmon recovery and riparian, however it is likely that some aspects of funding will be up for negotiations as the budget continues to progress. There will be a significant number of inputs coming from FSA, NRCS and Local Working Groups to inform on how the funding is likely to be developed. Additional information will be forthcoming as it is developed in the future.

Currently local government training for supervisors expires in the near future. It maybe advantageous for supervisors to look into the process of renewing that training either as a group or individually. Something to keep in mind in the coming months.



NRCS– Ribellia – No official report has come from the local NRCS office however, a new District Conservationist (DC) Jon Paul Pierre has been hired starting January 17th, 2023 and will be working remote for a time. Additionally Levi Norton, Conservation Planner, has taken a position in Pendleton, Oregon. His new posting will be effective mid-February 2023. The NACD NRCS position will also be vacant starting March 2023 as Sebastian Saliwanchik has accepted an offer from the US Forestry service. With the reduction in staffing, it is likely that CBCD will be an increase in Task orders to handle the additional workload.

Old Business:

Staffing Update- Ribellia – Sebastian Saliwanchik has accepted an offer from the US Forestry service in Naches. The NACD NRCS TA position he has filled is unlikely to be renewed until the local NRCS office has sufficient NRCS to provide the required training.

Building Update – Ribellia/Roseburg – No updated decision on the progress of the agreement between CBCD and GCFD 5 can be presented at this time. CBCD has worked with the Enterprise Services to clarify the option that the agreement could be conducted under RCW and laws governing the acquisition of land between governmental agencies. GCFD 5 will likely be doing the same process with their own lawyer. This process is likely going to take some time so the lease agreement and land purchase will be undecided in the near future. It maybe advantages to look at making an offer on the property based on our assessment and knowledge or even consider looking into a separate facility unaffiliated with the fire district, however, those decisions are at the discretion of the CBCD supervisors.

Motion by R. Leitz to make an offer at the assessed value of \$6,460.00 per acre be made for the five acres and begin looking into separate properties outside the proposed lease agreement with GCFD 5, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) –Crose – The federal appropriation request was approved in late December 2023. No official announcement on when funds will be released has been made, however, funds will be routed through NRCS. The exact specifics of timing and handling still require more clarification which is coming in the near future as the Federal Government provides additional information to CBCD and NRCS. Conversations with other entities has provided useful information as there is now a 5-year window when the proposed treatments could be applied and the Bureau of Reclamation may also be contributing funds to the project. From the current CBCD perspective, the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) is the next step in the process. More information will be provided as it become available.

VSP Update– Crose/ Baker– Both the Grant and Adams County Quarterly meetings occurred in December. The meeting signals a reboot of the program as significant changes occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and turnover in staffing occurred since early 2020. Progress on plans continues to progress and the programs are still very solid however, new members of the working group will necessitate a change in the way things are operated and presented, particularly in Adams County due to the OGWRP. Overall, the progress is positive and will continue to be positive as long as cooperation is maintained.

OGWRP Update–Ribellia/ Crose – Significant progress has been made in the OGWRP. Communication have been ongoing and provided substantial benefit. CBCD has provided technical assistance, which has been applied to 45 plans. CBCD has progressed through 250,000 ft of pipeline and 850 plus horsepower of pumping power for on farm practices. Progress will continue at a likely rapid pace, particularly with the support of ECBID and NRCS. The focus will now shift to the 79-84 group and the development of those laterals.



New Business:

CBCD No-Till Drill SFF – Gadberry – The previously proposed no-till drill was significantly larger than the program is likely to target with most producers in the program are less than 20 acres. This results in a significantly reduction in cost, now totally \$23,000 dollars with a 100% cost share coming from the Washington State Conservation Commission. The drill costs \$14,000, trailer cost \$7,500 and the remainder totally covers additional cost. Annually the program needs to generate at minimum \$640 to break even. The process of developing the No-till program will continue along the lines of the San Juan Conservation District and require a training process for staff and producers. Ideally the program will be tied into the cost share process.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the CBCD No-Till Drill as presented, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

P. Friehe Cost Share Approval – Gadberry – P. Friehe is looking to convert from Rill to Pivot was proposed as a potential project. The Grant VSP project was approved and will prevent between 8 and 11 ton of soil erosion depending on the crops. The process will cost approximately \$85,000.00 including pad, pipeline, and labor. The project will be engineered stamped and CBCD will cover \$42,500 of the total project cost.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Friehe Cost share project as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

S. Butcher Cost Share Approval – Gadberry – This project was approved by the Adams County VSP working group in January and is an irrigation conversion from Rill to Pivot. The cost covers the pipeline and pad for irrigation on a 3.5-acre section outside the current irrigation. The project will max out at \$25,000 for the cost share and the total is estimated at 58,000, this depends on the cost of materials. The project will need to be completed no later than end of fiscal year on June 30, 2023.

Motion by R. Leitz to accept the VSP Cots addendum approval as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Cooperative Agreement for Cultural Resource with Cascadia CD – Ribellia – Cascadia Conservation District currently has an agreement for cultural resources with GCCD, however, it is somewhat out of date given the name. The agreement would be updated to reflect CBCD, remain contract based and managed via Cascadia Conservation District staff. Currently cultural resource is needed for the majority of cost share projects. The updated agreement would continue this standard and add additional option for use in the OGWRP for on farm practices as well.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Cooperative Agreement for Cultural Resources with Cascadia CD, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Communication Support with Sawdust Storytelling – Ribellia – Current communications are somewhat ad hoc with several people managing the information going out from the district across different platforms. Ideally communications will be more concise and uniform going forward. Contracting with an outside company such as Sawdust Story Telling to redefine and streamline the current process. The process would be a four-month process of development of an internal communication plan as well as an external communications protocol for relaying the mission and vision of CBCD through the communities we are working with. The cost to the district for these services would be \$9,500.00.

Motion by D. Roseburg to develop a contract with Sawdust Storytelling for communications for \$9,500.00, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.



WSCC Proposed Election Legislation – Ribellia – New elections requirements maybe coming for elections in 2024 ad later. Similarly, to the proposals in 2023, legislators are looking at making CD election more transparent. These transparency ideas cover a wide range of possible options from going on the general ballot to financial disclosures. The approximate cost to the district would exceed \$15,000.00 in the best case. The district would likely follow the WSCC guidelines once they are adopted. The commission as well as other entities will be bringing proposals to the legislature during the next legislative session. With the current information WSCC does not have a draft but may be developing one in the near future and will likely be asking for district input after the Legislative days in February.

CBCD New Vehicle Needs – Baker/ DeLong– The district has needed an additional vehicle for a number of years. The original plan was to acquire a vehicle in 2020 however, COVID 19 changed that plan. Recently the Colorado began having issues and its field capacity of unknown at the moment. With the number of staff, the likelihood of needing three reliable vehicle at once has increase. Currently CBCD staff has looked into three types of vehicle before deciding on an SUV, half-ton truck, or three-quarter ton truck. All three are Chevrolet brand vehicles due to the best price for the vehicle. The ideal vehicle would be field ready and likely a truck. CBCD staff will pursue the best option based on supervisor’s recommendations.

Motion by R. Leitz by approve the purchase of the Chevrolet Silverado 1500 as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Adjournment- Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

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