



Columbia Basin Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

October 10th, 2023 – 7:00 PM

In Person and Teleconference

Attendance:

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

Staff - Kristina Ribellia, Elliott DeLong (Recorder), Dinah Rouleau, Harold Crose

Agencies – None

Call to Order and Introductions: D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Public Input: No public input.

Approval of September 12th, 2023, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes: Correction – None

Motion by J. Preston to accept the September 12th, 2023, as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

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

Presented by E. DeLong – Reviewed current grants through fiscal year 24. Financial topics include burn permits, funds received, grant funding, DOE, WSCC, EPA and NACD grant, cost share allocations, implementation grants, VSP, SFF, livestock funding, NRCS, VSP Supplemental funds, and DOE Burn Applications. Additional information on the building funds and the Lauzier grant were included.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the October 10th, 2023, Financial report as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. Grant County checks #11634 - 11695 totaling \$149,644.63. Payroll checks #1111637-11648 totaling \$27,558.37 and #11668-11681 totaling \$31,863.24 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Baden –None

NRCS – None

Old Business:

Staffing Update – Ribellia – Ron Scerbicke and Jacob Towne are no longer working with CBCD. They have taken employment in California and will be departing officially October 13th, 2023. In response, Ronnie Sawyer will be starting as a full-time employee as of December 1, 2023, to take up the lake work requirements while Jacob Towne’s duties will be split among current staff.



Building Update – Ribellia – Demolition is complete, and the current progress is based at the Department of Enterprise Services, a completed contract should be available in November. The plan is to have the Conservation District in the building in December 2023 pending completion of the flooring.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia – The 2023 State of the Lake was held on September 19th. The presentation filled the community about the current lake conditions and actions in place to continue to progress. The presentation was public, and attendance was good overall. The USBR WaterSMART watershed plan was submitted on September 30, 2023.

VSP Update – Ribellia – VSP in both Grant and Adams County continue to progress well. Both VSP programs have working Groups meet in October. The VSP program has had 8 cost shares approved (7 Grant, 1 Adams) for the biennium. Currently funding is closed, however, there is an ask at a state level for additional funds.

OGWRP Update – Ribellia – Staff are working to schedule the first set of producers' contracts in the coming weeks. There is potential for working with the Warden Hutterian Brotherhood for assistance on lateral development and funding, however, CBCD is short on staffing with the recent departures. The work maybe something to explore in the future depending on the development of future RCPPs and future staffing.

WACD Annual Meeting - Ribellia – The WACD Meeting is October 19th, 2023, in Ritzville. If reservations are still needed, please let Kristina know. Currently J. Preston, R. Leitz and D. Stadelman are the attending supervisors.

New Business:

Shrub Steppe Mitigation Resolution – Ribellia – The Columbia Basin has a very distinct and unique ecosystem. Currently there is need to preserve the Shrub steppe in the county however, there is also an attempt the site solar panels within these areas as well. There needs to be an alternative methodology to determine where solar projects should be sited. It may be beneficial to develop resolution(s) with the area to produce a document at the WACD Area Meeting in October for the Annual Meeting.

Motion by D. Roseburg to put forth a resolution to prevent further development of solar siting on Shrub Steppe in the Columbia Basin, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

USBR Applied Sciences – Ribellia – USBR Applied Science grant is open for funding a project that would store all groundwater and GWMA data on an assessable site for the public. Currently the CDs and Agencies have GWMA data, however, the numbers and quality of the data is questionable. This website, matched by OCR funding and other agencies would allow for an updated data set to be accessed by the public. The work would be contingent upon award of the USBR funding, and that data be kept anonymous throughout the process.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve resolution for K. Ribellia to apply for USBR Applied Science Grant for Groundwater data website stipulated upon requirement that all data be as anonymous as possible, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Ducks Unlimited Contract –Rouleau – DOE Nonpoint Pollution grant has a planting component along Rocky Ford Creek. Currently USBR plans on running the alternate feed rough in 2024. This could potentially affect the overall success of the planting. The proposed contract would allow Duck Unlimited (DU) to work with CBCD to develop and deploy monitoring of the groundwater and surface water elements of the feed route. These measurements would determine if the fencing and planting project would be affected. The contract would provide DU the ability to train CBCD staff and would not exceed \$9,950.00 and expire 6/30/2024.



Motion by R. Leitz to approve the contract for monitoring work conducted by Ducks Unlimited, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

24-49-LT Addendum – DeLong – CBCD has received the Livestock grant from Washington State Conservation Commission for the 24-25 Biennium. Currently the Grant is for \$15,000.00 dollars and will be split two outcomes. Outcome 1 will be \$10,000.00 for Livestock specific TA, primarily for dairy plans and livestock updates, several of which are waiting to be done. Outcome 2 will be \$5,000.00 for other Livestock Technical Assistance planning and activities. CBCD will continue to use the WSCC recommended 10% overhead for the 24-25 biennium.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the 24-49-LT Addendum as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Grant Orchard Dairy Certification – Rouleau – Grant Orchard is a micro-dairy (10 head) and is working towards a dairy certification and license. The original plan required a berm to protect the waterway within the property (Irrigation return). The requirements have been met as of 10/01/2023 and everything else is complete and ready to certify.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Grant Orchard Dairy Certification as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Bar E Dairy Plan Approval – Rouleau – The Bar E plan(s) for Bar E 1 & 2 are originally for 2000 head. The plans have been updated and needed an additional increase to 2500 head as well as 5,000 acres for the application of nutrients. A new lagoon has been added, which is double lined and meets all the plan requirements, however, a gauging device needs to be installed and the plan would require that it be to standard. If the gauge is installed the approved plan would not need to be updated for several years.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Bar E Dairy Plan pending the recommendations are adopted, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

P. Benedict Cost Share Approval – Rouleau – Benedict is a producer outside Soap Lake. Currently the ground is under rill irrigation has worn-out significantly. Portions are now lined with plastic or made entirely of plastic piping. The irrigation would be 50% more efficient up to 90% total efficiency. The producer plans on working with CBCD and NRCS to convert the entire farm to Pivot Sprinkler. The project would only be funding if VSP cost share funds or Irrigation efficiencies come open again during the biennium.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Benedict Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

J. Preston Cost Share Approval – Rouleau – Preston is a producer outside Warden and a current CBCD board member. Project would replace a worn-out pivot with significantly leakage issues. Portions are repaired but have worn out again preventing water use efficiently. The pivot has exceeded the 30 year design life by a number of years. The improved irrigation pivot would be 10% more efficient to approximately 90% total efficiency. The project would only be funding if VSP cost share funds or Irrigation efficiencies come open again during the biennium.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Preston Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries, J. Preston abstains from Vote.



G. Jemlberg NRI Approval – Rouleau – This project is for a Russian olive removal and invasive species control. Jemlberg is planning on chipping the material to prevent regrowth and replanting competitive native vegetation. The project would cost approximately \$12,000.00 and CBCD would provide a 50% cost share for \$6,000.00. The project would be funded by the 24-49-NRI grant and added as an amended deliverable to the WSCC grant.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Jemlberg Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

L. Bode NRI Cost Share – Rouleau – The project would fund an agitator pump for L. Bode’s lagoon. The current pump is aged and inefficient. The project would be for a 42-inch pump with a bid amount of \$34,000.00. CBCD would be providing a 50% cost share for a total of \$17,000.00 which would be funded from the NRI fund.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Bode Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

A. Mickelson NRI Approval - Rouleau – Mickelson Dairy is looking for a floating pump to spread liquids from the lagoon. Current pumps are undersized and old. The new pump would provide more efficiency in separating liquids in the lagoon. The bid is for \$16,000.00 and based on a 50% cost share. CBCD would provide \$8,000.00 and would fund the project with biennium NRI funding.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Mickelson Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

C. Callaway IMP Cost Share Approval – Rouleau – Callaway would like to improve the efficiency of irrigation pumps for two pivots. The current pumps are over 20 years old and well outside their design life. Each pump costs \$8,500.00 for a total of \$17,000.00 however the available funding is limited to \$6,000.00. This cost share uses up the remaining funds that were originally added from another project.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Calaway Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

No-Till Drill Update – DeLong – The CBCD drill has been returned and is theoretically operable. Central Machine repaired the damage however, no additional modifications could be made by Central Machine. The drill should ideally be tried by CBCD staff or Supervisors for both operations and staff training.

Adjournment- Motion by Motion by G. Burkholder to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motion:

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Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Grant Orchard Dairy Certification as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Bar E Dairy Plan pending the recommendations are adopted, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Benedict Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Preston Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries, J. Preston abstains from Vote.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Jelmerq Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Bode Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Mickelson Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Callaway Cost Share as presented by D. Rouleau, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

Adjournment- Motion by Motion by G. Burkholder to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.