



Columbia Basin Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

November 14th, 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), Harold Crose

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSCC)

Public – Paul Wollman (Warden Hutterian Brotherhood), Jake Wollman Jr (Warden Hutterian Brotherhood), Michelle Keyes (OGWRP Producer)

Call to Order and Introductions: D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Input: CBCD has demonstrated its capacity and valuable partner to OGWRP producers, a proven problem solver for the OGWRP. Growers on the 47.5 Lateral have expressed interest in increasing the role of CBCD in OGWRP Management.

Approval of October 10th, 2023, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes: Correction – None

Motion by R. Leitz to accept the October 10th, 2023, as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Approval of November 14th, 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, fiscal year 24 implementation grants, VSP, SFF, NRI, LT, NRCS, VSP Supplemental funds, and DOE Burn Applications. Additional information on the building funds was included.

Motion by R. Leitz to accept the November 14th, 2023, Financial report as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, 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 –The hunt for the Executive Director continues but should be resolved by the end of November. Currently WSCC is looking to have an additional round of SFF classic in late December or early January for standard funding and an RFP for SFF Digester funds in late January. WSCC is looking for additional funds for RCPP partnership Funding from the legislator. On another note, elections are set for March and there should be a resolution on elections within the next month to 6 weeks.

NRCS – None



Old Business:

Staffing Update – Ribellia –Ronnie Sawyer will be starting as a full-time employee as of December 1, 2023. It is not known yet whether new staff will be hired to fill the needs of the district. Dinah Gadberry is currently on maternity leave until February 2024.

Building Update – Ribellia –The plan is to have the Conservation District in the building in December 2023 with flooring complete by the first of December. CBCD staff are planning the move the week prior to Christmas, December 18-22. The DES contract has been developed for limited work on the roof and ADA bathroom.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia – The federal appropriation with NRCS is continuing to progress. The NEPA status is still in question, however, we expect there to be a categorical exclusion issued for the project. As part of the MLWC, Moses Lake has continued to work with the City of Moses Lake to reduce the reliance on well water for lawns and gardens. The city is looking to work with MLIRD for Purple Pipe (non-potable water) and possible agreement to increase the number of xeriscape locations with the city.

VSP Update – Ribellia – VSP will focus on monitoring existing plans and providing plans for those farms within the RCPP and OGWRP boundaries. This is a double purpose as it allows extra acreage and planning that is required by NRCS. New plans are going to be significant in size and concentrated on the Adams County-Grant County lines.

OGWRP Update – Ribellia – See Public input.

New Business:

Signature Authorization Form – DeLong – Washington State Conservation Commission required CBCD to update the authorized signatory for the biennium to verify the authorization for district activities. CBCD has been delayed due to the “new” staffing, this was not done in July. Currently the signatory authority is given to all board members, K. Ribellia and E. DeLong.

FSA CRP Review Waiver – Ribellia – In previous years, CBCD has waived the need to receive FSA CRP plans due to time constraints and resources. There is a precedent from many years previous on waiving the review process, but the decision to waive the is dependent on the board and would require a letter to be submitted to the FSA office in Ephrata.

Motion by R. Leitz to provide a letter waiving CBCD’s requirement to review CRP plans submitted to FSA, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

M. Parr Certification– DeLong – Para operates a feedlot outside of Othello. Currently Para has added additional tanks and pipelines to increase water distribution. The project was engineer approved and meets the requirement of the Cost Share. CBCD will provide a 50% cost share for \$10,000 if approved by the board.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the M. Para cost share as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.



J. Morigeau Certification– DeLong – Morigeau purchased a small compost spreader for personal compost application on his personal pasture. The equipment was purchased from Titan Attachments and came in under the projected \$1,400.00 cost at \$1,109.05. CBCD would cover 50% of the purchase price for \$554.75 significantly below the projected \$700 maximum.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Morigeau Cost share as presented, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

P. Booker Grazing Amendment – DeLong – Booker is working through Adams County VSP working group fund to implement a watering facility and livestock fencing. Due to the proximity and relation to the wasteway that leads into Scootney Reservoir, there is a need to eliminate the possibility of concerns of cattle in the waterway. This grazing plan would meet NRCS standard for grazing high and limit the number of grazing days to three annually. This plan would provide security from added scrutiny for producers and meet similar requirements on the Franklin County side completed in 2023.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the P. Booker Grazing Plan for the Adams VSP Cost share, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

WACD – Ribellia – The Annual meeting is November 27-30th. If you still need to register, please let Kristina or Elliott know so registration can be completed as soon as possible. Registration will be completed for R. Leitz for the entirety, g. Burkholder for some days and possibly complete for D. Roseburg, but that will be confirmed prior to November 27th, 2023. Currently two resolutions of interest to CBCD have been developed and are listed below:

- Resolution on Shrub Steppe Solar Siting

The resolution will be to analyze the impact on the Shrub Steppe that solar facilities would have on the unique characteristics of the landscape. Currently the estimated average cost for the maintenance of a solar site is \$100.00 per acre. The request originated in the WACD South Central Region.

- Resolution on Prohibition on Agency Purchases of Public Lands

The Resolution would request a prohibition on additional land purchases by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Currently the concern is that there are insufficient funds for maintenance of the newly required lands that would result in the lands that provide limited benefit without the proper care. The resolution originates from the WACD southwest region.

Adjournment- Motion by Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motion:

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