

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022

Attending: (Via Zoom) Curtis Hennings, Ron Hennings, Michael Broeckel, Branden Spencer;
Staff: Cara Hulce; Guests: Cari Roepke, NRCS and Mike Baden, WSCC

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:44 p.m.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:

- **Cari Roepke, NRCS**
 - They've received 31 EQIP applications for Adams Co. and 1 for irrigation got approved, Lincoln Co. had 8 approved. They're asking for more money so they can fund more applications. New CSP applications and renewals are in and they're starting CRP stand evaluations.
 - The West Palouse Local Work Group meeting is April 28th at 1pm.
- **Mike Baden, WSCC**
 - SCC and WACD hosted a legislative review meeting on April 4th. There is a lot of work happening around the various supplemental funding items that have been approved including developing recommendations for how the funds will be rolled out. He anticipates that the Commission will act on the supplemental funding recommendations at the May Commission meeting. An update to the Open Public Meetings Act was passed during the legislative session and signed by the Governor. Among other things it includes the requirement to post agendas for board meetings on the district website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. There were a number of other items included in the legislation as well that are of note and some would not be applicable as long as the Governor's emergency proclamations are still in effect. SCC has been reviewing the legislation and will have a message coming out through GovDelivery very soon.
 - A biennial budget webinar was held last Monday to discuss the preparation of the 2023-25 biennium budget packages. The various planned operating and capital budget package proposals were discussed. We should be seeing a survey regarding the development of the budget packages for the next biennium come out soon.
 - The Sustainable Farms & Fields program has been funded. Along with that comes new programmatic guidelines on which there's still time to comment if we'd like.
 - Mike is encouraging districts to make sure to be working on their Annual Financial Report for the SAO that is due May 30th and the Annual Plan of Work that is due to the Commission by May 31st.
 - There is an opportunity to apply for SCC year-end funding. There's no guarantee of funding at this time since they're still evaluating what funds might be available, but

he thinks it's a great opportunity to look into if needed. Requests are due by May 2nd.

- Just a reminder that projects using Implementation (IM) funds must be fully completed by June 30th.
- **Cara Hulce, Manager**
 - Cost-shares for the Hexprotect project are ready for the board to review.
 - The cultural survey report for Harder's wells should be completed within the next couple weeks.
 - Cara has been working with Corey Fedie on his windbreak/wildlife planting design and will be following up with Connor tomorrow to review the project and start getting help with future planning. An amendment to include Fedie's project in the Lincoln County CD technical assistance agreement for IM projects is ready for the board to review.
 - Since there's still some IM funding remaining Cara asked Mike if he thought it would be okay to use it to implement the irrigation portion of Fedie's project before the end of June. Mike said since the irrigation itself doesn't provide a conservation benefit, he believes it needs to be combined with the windbreak before SCC can cover the expense, but he'll double check.
 - Branden finds it disappointing that SCC won't allow practices to be installed independently that are part of a conservation project, especially when there's funding available that would otherwise have to be returned to the state.

Minutes: Branden moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 17, 2022. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report:

- The board discussed check # 14233 to BIE which was approved with the November 2021 financials but didn't clear until March 2022.

Michael moved to approve the financial report for March 2022 showing end balances of \$117,882.41 (money market) and \$142,693.18 (checking), and all ACH/EFT transactions from March 3 – April 1, 2022. Total deductions \$5,489.28 and liability \$1,304.40. Branden seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

- Curtis and Branden will try to get the pickup towed to Pete's garage on April 28th to get the catalytic converter replaced.
- The board discussed getting the sign up along I-90 to advertise ACD.
- Curtis reported that there wasn't any water at Gray Rd. over the past few months and without that flow they were unable to back up water at the dam and flood the wetland area. He talked to Kevin Brown at DOE who's not sure yet if the preliminary permit will need to be extended to a 3rd year for further monitoring.
- There was discussion on how to use the remaining IM funding. The board decided it would be best to hold off on purchasing a new vehicle at this time and use the funds to

upgrade the boardroom for virtual communication and improve Cara's equipment for working remotely. Michael suggested looking into Owl Labs and getting in touch with Gigamedics for possible equipment and setup support. Cara will follow up with Courtney to get SCC approval and work on getting tech upgrades in place as soon as possible so we're ready for virtual communications from the boardroom once the public meeting emergency status is lifted.

New Business:

- The board reviewed Branden Spencer's cost-share agreements for assistance to install Hexprotect Aqua tiles on the surface of 2 livestock watering troughs.

Michael moved to approve Spencer's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Old Rangeland trough. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed. Branden abstained from voting.

Ron moved to approve Spencer's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Overpass Field trough. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Branden abstained from voting.

- The board reviewed Ron Hennings's cost-share agreements for assistance to install Hexprotect Aqua tiles on the surface of 6 livestock watering troughs.

Branden moved to approve Hennings's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Cow Lake trough. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting. Board will sign the cost-share once it's signed by the landowner.

Michael moved to approve Hennings's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Windmill trough. Branden seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting. Board will sign the cost-share once it's signed by the landowner.

Branden moved to approve Hennings's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Gravel Pit 1 trough. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting.

Branden moved to approve Hennings's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his Gravel Pit 2 trough. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting.

Branden moved to approve Hennings's cost-share agreement for assistance to install Hexprotect tiles in his two Simas North troughs. Michael seconded the motion; motion passed. Ron abstained from voting.

- The board reviewed an amendment to the technical assistance (TA) agreement with Lincoln County CD for IM projects that would include providing TA for Corey Fedie's windbreak project.

Branden moved to approve the amendment to the technical assistance agreement with Lincoln County CD for IM projects to include providing help on Fedie's windbreak project. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.

- The board reviewed RCW 89.08 210 and 220.
- Michael let the board know he and Cara reviewed the Schedule 22.
- Branden shared that DNR is marketing leased land for solar development and will be pulling some current ag leases. Pre-selected sites are all on the east side of the state. They would like 5,000 acres covered in solar by 2025 and 1,300 acres are currently in development. Energy leases would be 50yrs whereas ag leases are only for 10yrs. Branden told the board where they could look online for more info and to get on the mailing list. Branden was one of the pre-selected sites and there are others in Adams County so this may be something the district gets inquiries about.
- Last June there was a fire between Lind and Paha west of Hwy 395. Branden says there's currently no coverage on the ground and a strong wind could potentially cause big dust issues. Branden asked if there was funding assistance to help those landowners get something on their fields? Mike said SCC has Fire Recovery funding that the district could help folks apply for in FY23. Mike provided Cara with some guidance on the funding and how to apply. Applications are submitted and then a committee reviews them and if approved the project can be put into CPDS for cost-share assistance through the district.
- The board watched Supervisor Module #5: Risk Management for CD's.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.