

**Adams Conservation District**  
**118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 19, 2022**

**Attending:** (Via Zoom) Curtis Hennings, Ron Hennings, Michael Broeckel, Branden Spencer, Gary Cook; Staff: Cara Hulce; Guests: Marika Kearsley, NRCS

**The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:43 p.m.**

***Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/Manager:***

- **Marika Kearsley, NRCS**

- They will be funding 1 EQIP project in Adams Co. and 8 projects in Lincoln Co.
- They're working on 79 CSP applications, 26 are in Adams Co. the rest are in Lincoln Co. There are 21 renewals for CSP.
- CRP had a 98% acceptance rate, however several decided not to renew. They're finishing up stand evaluations now and plans are due the end of July.
- Heidi Hennings is starting in June to help work with Pheasants Forever, etc. and will be working out of the NRCS office in Ritzville.
- The West Palouse Local Work Group meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> went well, but only 1 operator participated and one called in prior with input.

- **Cara Hulce, Manager**

- The cultural survey report for Harder's wells was completed. Branden reported that the driller hopes to be up next week. They will focus on getting Harder's IM funded wells drilled first to make sure and meet the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Cara and Connor are working on getting cost estimates for the different practices within Fedie's windbreak/wildlife planting project. Since Fedie's project site is in the driest region of the district it's important to make sure to get suitably adapted plants. Cara has spoken to nurseries in Moses Lake and the Tri-cities and the best option to get the stock we want is Wildlands Nursery. We've purchased from them before and their stock has done well in our area. However, Wildlands now only sells retail so the district would need to purchase the plants then sell them to Fedie. To get the plants we want the nursery would require 30% down for a contract grow and plants would be available in October. The board discussed purchasing from Wildlands and agreed this would be fine. Cara will put together a purchasing liability form for Fedie to sign before the district places the contract grow.
- Cara attended the recent RCPP meeting. The practices being targeted are no-till/reduced till, cover crops and nutrient management. Palouse CD is taking a few applications now to try a trial run of the new system, but sign-up will take place this

fall. They will be sending out the partner agreements and putting together some outreach materials soon.

**Minutes:** Branden moved to approve the meeting minutes for April 21, 2022. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Michael moved to approve the financial report for April 2022 showing end balances of \$117,885.32 (money market) and \$140,174.47 (checking), and all ACH/EFT transactions from April 2 – May 10, 2022. Total deductions \$15,617.05 and liability \$1,388.40. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- Curtis got the pickup towed to Pete's garage; Cara will get a quote for the catalytic converter to send to the insurance.
- The board reviewed the quote from Gigamedics for the tech upgrades. Branden let the board know he spoke with Michael and approved the \$4,000 deposit. The board was fine with the deposit and projected tech expenses.
- Branden let the board know he'll be applying Battalion Pro to a test plot in the fall!

**New Business:**

- The board discussed potentially changing the cost-share policy to allow for digital signatures since that format is becoming increasingly more common as seen with recent interactions with DNR. A couple scenarios were proposed. Perhaps accepting a digital signature could be allowed only if the landowner was a state or federal agency or maybe allowing on a case-by-case basis but best practice still being a wet ink signature. Cara will follow up with SCC to see if they have any guidance.
- The board reviewed the district's annual financial report for 2021.

**Branden moved to approve the annual financial report for 2021. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.**

- The board reviewed the district's annual work plan for FY23.

**Branden moved to approve the annual work plan for FY23. Ron seconded the motion; motion passed.**

- The board reviewed the revised board meeting policy.

**Branden moved to approve the revised board meeting policy. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.**

- Cara let the board know that the emergency meeting status would be lifted on June 1<sup>st</sup>, so per the updated OPMA the district will be required to have a physical meeting location available for all future board meetings. Branden volunteered to open the boardroom to the public for the meeting in June and potentially July. Cara will follow up with Cory at Gigamedics to make sure he knows the boardroom has to be operational for virtual meetings before June 16<sup>th</sup>. In the future we can have a supervisor or

someone else open up the boardroom for meetings. All supervisors can still attend virtually (or by phone) if they so choose.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm by Curtis Hennings.**

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The next board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.**