



Columbia Basin Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM

In Person and Teleconference

Attendance:

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

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

Agencies – None

Call to Order and Introductions:

D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Public Input: No public input.

Approval of October 11th, 2022, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes: Correction - None

Motion by J. Preston by to accept the October 11th, 2022, as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Approval of November 8th, 2022, Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by E. DeLong – Reviewed monies owed or owing and current grants through July, including fiscal year 22. Financial topics including burn permits, funds received, grant funding, DOE, WSCC, EPA and NACD grant, cost share allocations, pass-through money, implementation grants, VSP, livestock funding, NRCS, RCPP, and DOE Burn Applications.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the November 8th, 2022, Financial report as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. Grant County checks #11016-11061 totaling \$79,556.84. Payroll checks #11017-11026 totaling \$19,068.29 and #11038-11050 totaling \$28,610.77 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)– None

NRCS– None

Old Business:

Staffing Update- Ribellia – Currently CBCD has 14 employees of which eleven are full time. Nine employees will be in the office, with all par time and two full time working outside of the official office. The newest hire is Cari Cortez, a graduate for Whitman college and previous employ of the City of Moses Lake. C. Cortez will be handling special projects and grants focusing on RCPP and OGWRP for the immediate future.



Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia/Croze – Most of the Moses Lake Watershed Council works continues and is waiting on funding. Implementation funds will be coming once the Moses Lake Watershed is complete, however funding through the Department of Ecology grants (Freshwater Algae control and Invasive Aquatic Plant management) are pathways that CBCD is exploring. The federal appropriation is on track and should be decided prior to January 2023 and should be handles as a pass-thru via NRCS. More information will likely be available in December.

VSP Update– Crose – In light of activities that occurred in he last quarterly meeting, VSP will have the first in-person meeting since 2019 in December. Grant VSP will be held in Moses Lake on December 8th, 2022, and Adams County will be held in the Othello area on December 15th, 2022. Both meeting will be on a Thursday and held from 10-12. Official invitations and agendas will be out at the end of November.

OGWRP Update–Ribellia/ Crose –The RFP is for work on the 22.1, 80.4 and 84.7 laterals. Focus going forward will be directed on subcontracting for the RCPP as part of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District contract. Most of the funding will be from the infrastructure bill basing in 2022. These funds will cover federal requirements (NEPA, SEPA, etc.). as of now, RFP has been completed and there is a contractor on board. FCA, contracted for previous work on the OGWRP, was the sole applicant. FCA is highly technical and capable and due to previous work, very familiar with PL-556 and RCPP. If accepted by the board, the FAC contract would be completed within 1-3 years.

Motion by D. Roseburg by to approve the contracting for FCA to handle the OGWRP RFP request, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

WACD Conference–Ribellia – The WACD Annual Meeting will be held November 28th-30th, 2022. The meeting will be in Wenatchee and registrations are due prior to November 18th, 2022. Any individuals wishing to attend should let K. Ribellia know, and registration and reservations will be handled as soon as possible.

New Business:

FCS Group Rates and Charges –Ribellia – FCS group contacted CBCD about a continuation of the contracting from 2017-2018 for the work on the rates and charges assessment from the county. The previous contract expired in March 2022. The annual reporting to the county is not easily accomplished with our current resources as the process in extensive. The recommendation is to renew the five-year contract for reevaluation in 2027.

Motion by D. Roseburg by to approve the renewed contracting with FCS Group, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

2023 Elections and Appointment Update–Ribellia – Elections are planned in March 2023 to correspond with the Conservation Commission's Election Month. Currently J. Preston is up for election and D. Roseburg is set for appointment.

Springbrook Express –Ribellia – Previously Springbrook has been explored by Columbia Basin Conservation District however, the cost was exceptionally high. However, after other conservation with some of the eleven conservation districts using Springbrook, the previous conversation was misleading. In Spring 2022, Springbrook split into two versions of the product. Conservation districts are using Springbrook Express which is less than the previously quoted \$137,000. Springbrook express would provide the same benefits and cost \$15,000.00 annually with an additional \$17,000 for an initial setup process.



Motion by G. Burkholder to approve transitioning to Springbrook Express, seconded D. Roseburg, motion carries.

NACD Annual Dues – DeLong – In previous years, CBCD has paid the NACD dues. CBCD has two grants through NACD and the option for renewal is up again. Previously CBCD participated at the \$775 dues level.

Motion by J. Preston to continue at the \$775 NACD Dues level for 2023, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

DOE Burn Delegation Resolution – DeLong – CBCD has issues burn permits as an intermediary for Washington Department of Ecology. CBCD has been operating on a resolution that was passed in 2020 and requires a renewal prior to December 31, 2022. Burn permits allow for additional contact with the producers in the county as well as provides a slight financial benefit to the district. If approved, a new resolution would allow the process to continue through December 2024.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the resolution to continue to issue agricultural burn permits within Grant County, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

23-49-FR Addendum – DeLong – CBCD was given funds for a wildfire recovery within Grant County. The funds would cover \$7,500 dollars of Commission funds. The funds would be distributed with \$6,000 for on the ground implantation and the remaining \$1500 as technical assistance funds for CBCD staffing. Once approved, funds would be eligible to use.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve 23-49-FR Addendum as presented, seconded D. Roseburg, motion carries.

S. Englund Cost Share – Gadberry – Cost share associated with the above-mentioned addendum. Englund had fire damage to a property near George in 2021. The fire resulted in weeds overtaking native planting. The cost share would cover preparation of the site for a native planting, specifically weed control. The expected cost would be approximately \$8,000.00 and a recommendation would be for a 75% cost share for the project. Columbia Basin Conservation District would cover \$6,000.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Englund Cost Share for \$6,000 at a 75% rate, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

Goodrich Cost Share Certification– Gadberry – The pipeline continuation cost share for E. Goodrich has been complete. The project linked to the Craghead pipeline and received the signature for the engineer for the project. The Engineer approves of all the completed project. The cost share came in slightly under budget with a final cost of \$7,863.21, slightly below the projected \$8,000 approved by the CBCD board. CBCD would be cost sharing on \$3,931 of the total amount.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Goodrich Cost share as Certified above, seconded J. Preston, motion carries.

Rowen Cost Share Certification – Gadberry – E. Rowen completed the native seeding and pollinator plantings, qualifying the project as a Heritage Garden. The engineering required has been stamped and approved. The project costs covered irrigation, labor, and plant materials. The total project cost totaled \$3,164 dollars with a 50% expected cost share. CBCDs expected cost totals \$1,582 for the project.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Rowen Cost share as Certified above, seconded G. Burkholder, motion carries.



Folks Cost Share Certification – Gadberry – H. Folks completed the native seeding and pollinator plantings on 2.5 acres. The engineering required has been stamped and approved. The project costs covered irrigation, labor, and exceeded the original cost estimate. The total project cost totaled in excess of \$8,000. The planting will be certified as a Heritage Garden when completed. CBCD is expected to cover a total cost of \$2,250 as originally approved by the CBCD board.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Folks Cost share as Certified above, seconded D. Roseburg, motion carries.

Sustainable Farms and Field Discussion – Baker – Sustainable Farms and Field funds need to be expended by 6/30/2023. CBCD is looking into purchasing a No-till Drill (6-10 Ft range) specifically for smaller acreages. The program would be allocated similarly to the No-till drill rental program the district had with the larger WSU program. A 50% cost share or similar would be expected and there would be a damage deposit. Costs of the program would need to maintain coverage for both the equipment and upkeep to make the project viable. More information will be presented to the board as new information is established.

DOE Indirect Resolution – Scerbicke – Department of Ecology requires an official document on grants stating that the entity applying has a specific indirect cost with a grant. While the board approved the motion in October, minutes were questionable as an accepted document. This resolution takes the motion previously approved by the CBCD board as a formal resolution.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Indirect resolution as presented, seconded G. Burkholder, motion carries.

New Building Proposal – Ribellia/ Roseburg – Additional meeting between CBCD and Grant County Fire District 5 (GCFD 5) have helped highlight some options for the new building that maybe more acceptable. The considerations look at space, cost, and coverage the building would need to provide to make the agreement tenable for both sides. The current proposal would be a more short-term option. CBCD would have a five-year agreement for occupancy of the Conservation District side of the building and enough space in the upper portion to accommodate CBCD staff. Additionally, there would be a provision for purchase of 5 acres of the 65 total acres of the property, for use by the CD to build an independent structure. The agreement is not a bits and pieces. The 5-year lease and 5-acre purchase go hand and hand. Finally, the agreement would have stipulated such as first right of refusal and purchase agreement if the district left the were to ever sell the property. Progress will continue in the coming month to make sure the agreement is acceptable for the Conservation District and the Fire District going forward.

Adjournment- *Motion by G. Burkholder to adjourn. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.* The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

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