



GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Grant County Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022 – 1:00 PM

In Person and Teleconference – Phase 3

Attendance:

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

Staff – Lyle Stoltman, Kristina Ribellia, Ron Scerbicke, Britton Baker, Elliott DeLong (Recorder), Harold Crose

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSCC)

Guest – None

Call to Order and Introductions:

D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Moment of silence in memoriam of Marie Lotz

Public Input:

No public input.

Approval of December 14, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

There weren't any suggested changes or additions to the previous meeting's minutes.

Motion by J. Preston to accept the December 14, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Approval of January 11, 2022 Monthly Financial Reports:

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

Motion by R. Leitz to accept the January 11, 2022 financial report as presented, seconded by J. Preston motion carries. Grant County checks #10567-10602 totaling \$64,190.59. Payroll checks #10571-10577 totaling \$15,231.92 and #10585-10592 totaling \$15,089.04 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

NRCS– None

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)–Baden– There has been some changes to the focus of the most recent legislative session. The focus is on an election reform bill which more or less matches the ideas the WSCC recommended and an opposing non-WSCC aligned bill. Both will be considered before any reform is made. Other legislative bills include a sustainable farm bill and is designed to support conservation district activities. The overall bills will be something that the conservation district and Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) will be reviewing. The Department of Ecology livestock watering policy has been placed on hold until a stakeholder meeting can be established to engage those affected. The stakeholder meeting should be happening in the near future so more information of specific times and dates will be coming out soon.

1107 S. Juniper Dr., Moses Lake, WA 98837 | www.columbiabasinncds.org

Office: (509) 765-9618 | Fax: (509) 765-4127



Old Business:

Building Update- Ribellia - The building is currently on track and may possibly even be ahead of schedule for a late April or early May move in date. Electrical and roofing has been completed and the Freeform furnishing contract has been in place and signed for \$53,000. A final occupancy meeting will be scheduled with Grant County Fire District 5 in the near future to go over the detail for the building and costs. There is a possibility that Dan Roseburg maybe able to assist in facilitating that meeting.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia – Work with the MLWC is focused on the USBR WaterSMART grant. As part of that process GCCD has been exploring the bylaws, management, and GCCD positions. In all likelihood the MLWC will operate as a subcommittee of GCCD much like it currently is and will inform the management activities. Both from a practical standpoint and a deliverable of the WaterSMART grant, having a formal structure for the watershed council is important to the council's future.

Currently there are asks for lake management projects varying between \$2 million and \$18 million depending on the watershed member organization for treatments that range from particle to complete lake treatments.

VSP – Crose – Going forward VSP will be treated as a complete program that includes both counties but separate from a reporting and management process once the Adams County backlog has been addressed. As such a new employee, B. Baker, has been brought on as a VSP planner. Currently Deanna Elliott has worked to increase the monitoring and management process for the program. This includes an update to the management tracking system, and training to make sure that the VSP program remains robust to address the increase in Adams VSP and OGWRP plans that will be coming in the near future.

OGWRP Update – Ribellia – The PL-566 application, completed with assistance from the Farmer Conservation Alliance, has been completed and submitted to NRCS. The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District acted as program sponsor and ended up sponsoring a 60 plus page document with additional supporting documents which is significant. This document will likely see approval sometime after mid-February and could lead to approval of the \$600,000 watershed plan. Once approved the watershed plan would allow for implementation projects in the future.

New Business:

NACD Urban Conservation Grant - Scerbicke – GCCD has applied for the NACD Urban Conservation grant in the past. NACD awarded the grant for the Urban Gardening project complete in 2018. The project currently being proposed in for the development of Heritage Garden, native low maintenance vegetation, to improve water quantity to address water resource issues within the district. The grant once approved would be submitted no later the January 31st, 2022.

Motion by R. Leltz to accept Resolution 01122022-1 to accept the application of the NACD Urban Conservation Grant as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Staffing Update- Ribellia – Two new employees started with the conservation district this month. Ron Sawyer started part time with the district in support of the Moses Lake Watershed Council and DOE water quality grants. Ron Sawyer started 1/3/2022. Additionally, Britton Baker was hired to work on



Adams County VSP and started 1/11/2022. Britton has a GIS background, a drone pilot license and service experience.

NACD hiring that occurred in December resulted in no acceptable candidate for the GCCD NACD NRCS TA position in Ephrata. The position will be reposted in early February 2022 to see if additional candidates are available.

L. Stoltman Retirement - Ribellia – Lyle Stoltman will be retiring from the Grant County Conservation District effective January 31st, 2022. Lyle has more than 35 years of conservation experience starting in North Dakota before spending 10 years with King Conservation District and then 23 years at Grant County Conservation District. His last day in the office will be Friday, January 28th. His position will be filled in May 2022 by Dinah Gadberry, currently the NRCS TA, who has been working with Lyle over the last several months to train for the position. Lyle offered to continue to be available for training if needed.

Legislative days – Ribellia - Legislative days will occur in the end of January. Currently the meetings will be held with Rep. Dent, Senator Warnick, Rep. Dye, Senator Schoesler, and Rep. Ybarra. The meetings will be held over Zoom and setup for the meeting will be set by Friday (1/14/2022). Once the dates are set emails will be sent to the interested board members with the session date for the end of January.

Adjournment-

Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

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