



GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Grant County Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022 – 1:00 PM

In Person and Teleconference – Phase 3

Attendance:

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

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

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSCC), Erin Kaczmarczyk (NRCS)

Guest – None

Call to Order and Introductions:

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

Public Input:

No public input.

Approval of January 11th, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

Grammatical correction from offered to offered under L. Stoltman Retirement.

Motion by J. Preston to accept the grammatical changes to the January 11, 2022 minutes, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Approval of February 8th, 2022 Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by E. DeLong – DeLong has been made contact with the Office of the Financial Management of Washington State, replacing Marie Lotz.

G. Burkholder, as a signatory on the GCCD account, will go to Banner Bank to address the issue with monthly account statements.

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 February 8th, 2022 Financial report as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder motion carries. Grant County checks #10603-10650 totaling \$87,837.90. Payroll checks #10609-10616 totaling \$12,099.89 and #10630-10639 totaling \$16,511.18 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

NRCS – Kaczmarczyk - NRCS and FSA are working towards getting all staff returned to the office as Covid numbers continue to decline. The agency will be ready to transition people that have worked remotely or teleworked for the past two years back into the office. Local Working Group meeting will be held remotely on February 25th from 9-12 am and meeting information being emailed out to the larger group and posted to the NRCS state website. WaterSMART Initiative ranking and assessments due 2/24/2022. NRCS should know funded applicants by 3/4/2022. New RCPP proposals are due April 13, 2022. CSP general sign up has been announced. Application cut-off date is March 31, 2021. Contact your

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local office for an application. EQIP ranking and assessments due 2/24/2022. CTA has become more important in recent years and plays a major role in metrics used to determine budget and staffing levels. CTA helps to fund our task orders which helps NRCS get conservation on the ground. Ernie Holt (Central Area Resource Conservationist) is retiring. The Ephrata office is still trying to fill the vacancies for a Civil Engineering Technician, Program Assistant, and Resource Conservationist. Conservation District board members are encouraged to request civil rights training from NRCS if desired. Please coordinate with Erin Kaczmarczyk if you are interested.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Baden – The new WSCC executive director position has been appointed. Legislative sessions continue and are focused on the elections bill 1652 (joint election for our general ballot (voluntary) and elections bill 1910 which requires the general ballot (no funding and additional financial disclosures for candidates). Both bills require senatorial approval before going forward and will likely be decided soon, though no exact date has been provided. Senate bill 5842 on stock water rights continues to be considered but will require additional stakeholder information going forward, so will likely be on hold for the remainder of this legislative session. NRI funds are still available for districts if there is a need; additional funds can be allotted should a district show the need for them. An additional VSP bill could be developed in response to the increase in countries looking to join the program a bill would have to include additional funding to support the program for the new districts.

Old Business:

Building Update- Ribellia - The building is currently on schedule for a May move in date. The contract between GCCD and Grant County #5 still needs review by K. Ribellia and a law office. Additionally, the overall cost of the building is still unknown but will be based on the 26% (conservation district offices and a portion of the shared area). The information will be made available and have the agreement figured out by April 2022.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia – Work with the Watershed Council continues to focused on the USBR WaterSMART grant. Discussion about the NRCS WaterSMART grant have come up and we will be looking into them soon as due dates are set for April 2022. These are submitted by the NRCS District Conservationist.

VSP-- Ribellia – B. Baker has been working with Deanna Elliott on Adams County VSP. Outreach materials have been developed by D. Elliott and will be going out to both counties soon to help inform landowners of the program, particularly in Adams County. The VSP work group meetings have been scheduled. Grant County's meeting is set for February 10th 10-12 am and Adams County for February 17th from 10-12 am. Additionally, Adams County VSP has progressed with the first 2022 plan being worked on for Bar U Ranch.

OGWRP Update--Ribellia – The PL-566 application has been completed and submitted to NRCS. Currently everything is in a state of wait and see. NRCS' final decision will be announced in the coming weeks, though no exact date has been set to our knowledge.

Previous Grants -- Scerbicke – NACD Urban Conservation grant was submitted and a final announcement should be made by end of March 2022. The DOE non-point source grant has been determined and GCCD has been awarded in the preliminary listing. This list is still tentative as the funding still has to be finalized in legislation. Final award should be known no later than July 1, 2022.

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Elections – Ribellia – Election for G. Burkholder requires a ballot request to be submitted by February 9th no later than 4:00 PM, to meet the March 3rd election deadline. The appointed position applications are due March 31st, and was posted prior to February 28th as a legal notice. Election for G. Burkholder will be March 3rd.

Legislation – Ribellia – GCCD board members and staff met with legislators during the 2022 session in late January to discuss the district's bills of interest.

New Business:

New Hires - Ribellia – As a response to recent hiring issues, R. Leitz has requested that new employees be accepted into the district by the board. This spreads the responsibility across administration and the board if any issues come up in the future. This will be worked into a new policy to add to the standard GCCD policy manual that will govern how the hiring process will go from this point forward. The official policy will be developed for the March or April 2022 board meeting.

Britton Baker and Ronnie Sawyer were brought on in Early January. B. Baker was hired as part of the VSP team and R. Sawyer was brought on to assist R. Scerbicke water quality and lake management.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the two new hires brought on in January 2022. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Detray Dairy Update – Gadberry - The Detray Dairy plan was updated by D. Gadberry with the assistance of Lyle Stoltman. The plan was originally developed in 2006 and covered the livestock numbers at the time. The plan is updated to cover 1,800 head of stock and account for the additional acreage for the nutrients as part of updated nutrient management plan. The nutrient plans will include soil testing and application requirement on the 750 acres required in the update. Currently there is agreement for nutrients on 953 acres, which is 123 acres more than required. The plan also includes provisions for the improvement and repair of the lagoon.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the Detray Dairy plan update as presented by D. Gadberry. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Troutlake Cost Share – Gadberry – Troutlake is an organic farm outside of Ephrata. The farm was looking for windbreaks and improvement to pollinator habitat on the property. Currently the farm has little to none of these features which is why they reached out for cost share. The cost share would cover 450 irrigation emitters, 280 trees for windbreaks, 200 shrubs as addition erosion control, and an estimated \$10,000.00 in labor costs. The cost share would be for \$10,000.00 for plants and irrigation and the project would be due for completion no later than June 30, 2022.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the Troutlake Cost share to cover plantings and watering equipment. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Administration Update – Moved to March 2022 Board meeting



Executive Session - D. Stadelman expressed need for an executive session to discuss district personnel for 30 minutes to begin at 2:40 PM.

Returned from executive session.

Motion by J. Preston to approve Kristina Ribellia as the new executive director of Grant County Conservation District. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Adjournment-

Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

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