



**Columbia Basin Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 7:00 PM  
In Person and Teleconference**

**Attendance:**

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

**Staff** - Kristina Ribellia, Elliott DeLong (Recorder), Harold Crose, Dinah Rouleau

**Agencies** – None

**Public** – None

**Call to Order and Introductions:** D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Public Input:** None

**Approval of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:** Correction – Agenda should read 903 non 303 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

*Motion by R. Leitz to accept March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with corrections, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.*

**Approval of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Monthly Financial Reports:**

Presented by E. DeLong – Reviewed current grants through fiscal year 24. Financial topics include burn permits, funds received, grant funding, DOE, WSCC, EPA and NACD grant, cost share allocations, fiscal year 24 implementation grants, VSP, SFF, NRI, LT, NRCS, VSP Supplemental funds, and DOE Burn Applications. Additional information on the building funds was included. Check # 11760 was void due to damage from the printer ruin printed area.

*Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Financial report as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. Grant County checks #11837-11876 totaling \$241,759.10. Payroll checks #11839-11848 totaling \$21,308.47 and #11857-11869 totaling \$23,674.40 included in the above amount.*

**Agency Reports:**

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)** – None

**NRCS** – None

**Old Business:**

**Staffing Update – Ribellia** – Cari Cortez will be leaving Columbia Basin CD effective March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, due to irreconcilable differences. Harold Crose will be moving to a reduced load as a transition to retirement starting in May 2024.

**Building Update – Ribellia** – DES contractors completed the majority of the work. However, a contract for the electrical in the upstairs portion of the office will likely be completed by mid-February. Otherwise, staff are working to furnish the building and office to make everything more livable and comfortable working environment.



**Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia** –The project will begin in the first week of June and run through for approximately two weeks. The current contract is in place and there will need to be more clarification in terms of project requirements. With Harold’s changes, there will also be a need for a new chair of the watershed council, but that will be determined at the next MLWC meeting. The next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup>,2024 at the CBCD office from 10-12.

**VSP Update – Ribellia** – The majority of the planning has focused on the OGWRP as every grower receives a plan. The VSP program is working on developing a monitoring plan as required by the WSCC and will specifically focus on agricultural viability, shrub steppe and rangeland viability in both counties. The plan needs to be submitted and approved by July 1, 2024. The next quarterly meeting will be in early April for both counties and we will be providing information closer.

**OGWRP Update – Ribellia/Croese** – Contracting work for the 84.6 and 84.7 with design reviews. The work on the PL-566 plan continues and will be important in the development of future RCPPs and future staffing. CBCD will continue to work with ECBID and DOE to complete the project. Funding progress towards the 22.1 has started and will be part of the RCPP in the next round.

**Election Update – Ribellia** –D. Stadelman was elected after running unopposed. The election will be certified by the WSCC at the May WSCC Commissioners meeting.

**Mobile Drip Irrigation – Croese** – Mobile drip irrigation (MDI) drags drip tubing with in-line emitters behind a center pivot. MDI could benefit growers if they have inadequate water, strained crop production and runoff problems that make irrigation difficult. Currently being used in the basin and is likely to be a practice that is beneficial with water constraints and energy savings. CBCD staff have seen the demonstration on efficiency and will focus on similar systems for use for producers in the OGWRP. Funding will come from a partnership with Bonneville Environmental Group.

**New Business:**

**CPRG – Rouleau** – The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant through EPA has provided an outlet for improving soil nutrient management. The grant would provide several million dollars with funding with CBCD as a partner. The funding would be approximately 12 million for EPA tier D funding. The funding would be matched by the partner and CBCD would be receiving a 10% overhead for the assistance in reporting and portions of the grant. The submission to EPA would be due April 1, 2024. CBCD would like to pursue the process if the staff has the capacity.

**Motion by R. Leitz to approve the CPRG grant pending staff approval, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.**

**NACD Resolution – Rouleau/DeLong** – The National Association of Conservation Districts is providing the district with a grant to provide funding for the conservation district to service to underserved communities with climate smart practices. Currently the CD has a continuing grant for the NACD NRCS TA position and is a standing member of the NACD. A resolution of support from the CD is required to complete the grant acceptance process.

**Motion by R. Leitz to provide a resolution for the NACD underserved communities grant, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.**



**P. Stadelman Cost Share – Rouleau** – P. Stadelman completed a pivot replacement for an older system that was on the property. The previous system was over 30 yrs. old and highly inefficient. The project meets the requirement for a 50% cost share totaling \$80,082.00 as previously approved.

Motion by R. Leitz approves P. Stadelman pivot cost share, seconded by G. Burkholder, D. Stadelman abstains, motion carries.

**J. Vanderveen Cost Share – Rouleau** – J. Vanderveen completed a pivot replacement for an older system that was on the property. The system was handled and certified as engineered by Kooy's Irrigation. FSA was able to provide additional funding to cover additional costs however, the project does still exceed \$100,000.00 dollars remaining for funding. The project meets the requirement for a 50% cost share totaling \$49,563.00 as previously approved.

Motion by R. Leitz certify the J. Vanderveen cost share a proposed, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

**P. Benedict Cost Share Amendment – Rouleau** – P. Benedict has a cost share for a wiper as part of several irrigation updates from the CD and NRCS in Ephrata. In the past NRCS has resulted in the district funding being switched, however, the scale of the project and the excessive funding requirement of the project, amending the funds to cover the cost and pairing them with NRCS funds to get project complete.

Motion by J. Preston approves P. Benedict Cost Share Amendment, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

**Vyve Phone Hosting – DeLong** – Vyve is offering digital off-site hosting for the district's phone service to address the issues with the building. The service would provide service, voice mail and line hosting but would be reliant on internet stability for constant t service. Currently CBCD has two lines and could effectively maintain those lines with only new physical phones. The cost is currently 239.95 per month and would increase to approximately 496.75 per month. The current recommendation would be to opt for an update of the phones first before initialing the off-site hosting.

**Money Market Update – DeLong** – Currently CBCD has two money market accounts through Banner Bank that were allocated for the improvement of the 903 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave building. These funds cannot be touched by CD staff without being moved to an active account. To address this there are two options. The first is to transfer one money market to checking and maintaining the other money market, however, there is no interest being accrued on the market account. The second option is to close both money markets, move the smaller account to checking and open a saving account with the other. The staff would recommend the second option to maintain a reserve in case of future issues.

Motion by R. Leitz to transfer the money markets to the district checking and opening a district savings account, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

**WSCC Strategic Planning Meeting – Ribellia** – The first strategic meeting for the commission since 2020 will be held in person at the Yakima Convention Center. Currently D. Stadelman, K. Ribellia and E. DeLong are registered to attend. The district will provide accommodations based on the current state government. If anyone else is interested in going registrations are due March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Adjournment-** Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.



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Chair Approval

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Recorder Signature

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Summary of Motion:**

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