



**Columbia Basin Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
February 12th, 2024 – 1:00 PM
In Person and Teleconference**

Attendance:

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

Staff - Kristina Ribellia, Elliott DeLong (Recorder), Harold Crose, Ronnie Sawyer

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSCC)

Public – None

Call to Order and Introductions: D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Public Input: None

Approval of January 9th, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting Minutes: Correction – None

Motion by R. Leitz to accept January 9th, 2024, as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Approval of January 9th, 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 J. Preston to accept the February 12th, 2024, Financial report as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries. Grant County checks #11792-11836 totaling \$203,798.45. Payroll checks #1111794-11802 totaling \$18,251.10 and #11815-11827 totaling \$25153.76 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Baden – The new Executive Director for the Commission has been making his way around districts and will be likely to visiting within the near future. Currently the commission is working to integrate new employees and positions within the commission. Legislatively the WSCC saw 3.5 million in CTA however, it is considerably less than the ideal 10 million requested. Funding will be distributed as needed but some funding sources are coming open. Currently SFF classic and SFF Manure R & D are opening soon with the R&D digester funding likely to be reallocated across the biennium. District CAP evaluations will be completed soon, however, there is not much need to worry as of now. Annual Reports and Plan of Work for the CDs are due in May and Elections need to be submitted for finalization by Early may for the commission meeting.

NRCS – None



Old Business:

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 be likely 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 NRCS has completed the NEPA process, and the project got an exemption. The project will begin in the first week of June and run through for approximately two weeks. The project will hopefully provide extended relief however, it is still somewhat unknown just due to project size. The current contract is in place and there will need to be more clarification in terms of project requirements. The next meeting will be February 20th, 2024 at the CBCD office.

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 June 2024.

OGWRP Update – Ribellia/Croese – A plan for a legislative trip to Washington DC is set for May. 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. CBCD has demonstrated its capacity and valuable partner to OGWRP producers.

Election Update – Ribellia – Currently D. Stadelman is up for election and running unopposed. Ballot requests need to be completed for the election by February 16th, 2024. The ballots will need to be filed and returned by March 2nd, 2024.

Election Update – Ribellia – Legislative days were overall very successful. From the process the continued support of our legislators for CBCD's programs, the legislative days were an overall remarkable success.

New Business:

DES Contract – DeLong – Currently the office is mostly complete, however, with the risk and concern of having staff replace the electric and lighting, it would be an advantage from a liability and capacity standpoint to contract DES to complete the process. DES has an electrical contract for 7,600.00 for installation of purchased light fixtures and labor involved. The contract would likely take between 8-16 hours to complete in its entirety if approved and would be completed by February 29th at the latest.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the DES Electrical contract as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

BIE Contract – DeLong – Kelley Connect (formally BIE) has provided contracted printer services for the district for several years. Currently as of July 2023, Konica Minolta has stopped production on our printed and parts are no longer available after November 2023. Our printer is well outside its service life and by December 2024, no parts including ink will still be available. Kelley Connect has a new contract for a new printer (SHARP) that would effectively work the same and would be serviceable for several years. The lease would be for 60 months at 165.00 baseline with service charges based on use. The cost would be comparable to our current cost and would likely have an extended lifetime in comparable to the current printer. An outright purchase would be 8,765.00 and would still require a service contract.



Motion by J. Preston approves a new printer lease contract with Kelley Connect, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Eutrophix Storage Contract – DeLong – Requires further discussion and clarification before being discussed again. May be a topic brought before the board in March 2024.

Septic Discussion –Sawyer- Given the known impacts that septic systems are having on Moses Lake’s water quality, staff would like the support to move forward with addressing this issue. Addressing septic systems on Moses Lake will take a multi-pronged approach, working with partners, property owners, and others to ensure that progress can be made through voluntary approaches, using the least cost, most efficient path forward. Initially, CBCD would focus on the Pelican Point area to help facilitate development of a Pelican Point Utility Local Improvement District. The ULID will create a mechanism to generate and secure funding that will allow the area to connect to the City of Moses Lake’s sewer. This hookup would result in a reduction in the nutrients entering the lake and improving water quality. The project would redirect funding previously requested to the Department of Ecology as an alternative task.

Motion by R. Leitz to pursue septic tanks mitigation efforts with DOE funding, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Executive Session – D. Stadelman expressed a need for an executive session to discuss executive director evaluation.

Motion by R. Leitz to enter Executive session at 3:06 PM, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Motion by J. Preston to return to regular session, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Motion by R. Leitz to increase executive director’s salary by \$12,000.00, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Adjournment- Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motion:

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