



**Columbia Basin Conservation District
Board of Supervisors
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2025, 7:00 PM
In-person and Teleconference**

Attendance:

Supervisors - Dave Stadelman (Chair), Richard Leitz, Dan Roseburg, John Preston, Glenn Burkholder

Staff - Kristina Ribellia, Anna Maletzke, Chauna Carlson, Kaley Wisher, Wade Haughton, Harold Crose, Dinah Rouleau, Ron Sawyer

Agencies - Ethan McJames (NRCS)

Public - None

Call to order and introductions: D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Public Input: - None

Approval of March 11, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes: Correction - None

Motion by J. Preston to accept the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

Approval of March 2025, Monthly Financial Report:

C. Carlson provided the monthly financial report for March 2025. The report included monthly financial details such as funding received, payroll, expenses, and checks written. An error was identified in the recorded deposit amount. The amount was entered twice. CBCD will be working with Mary Goodrich to rectify this discrepancy.

Motion by D. Roseburg to accept the March 2025 monthly financial report with corrections. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

AGENCY REPORTS

Washington State Conservation Commission - None

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NRCS - E. McJames

There have been five EQIP contracts approved for Ephrata. Ellensburg has three EQIP contracts approved. The FY26 WaterSmart proposals must be submitted to the NRCS State Office no later than April 10, 2025. LWG decisions/recommendations are due to the NRCS State office no later than May 30, 2025. FY26 NWQI Crab Creek funding assessments are needed. NRCS will be hosting the first quarterly OGWRP Strategic Planning Meeting at the WA-NRCS State Office in Spokane on Friday, April 11, 2025. There will be an option to attend virtually. The CSP ranking deadline has been extended to May 2, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Update - K. Ribellia

CBCD and WSCC will host the Irrigation Water Management Training on May 13–15 in the new meeting room at the back of the CBCD office. Approximately 40 attendees are expected. CBCD staff and contractors are working to complete the building construction. Once finished, future board meetings will be held in this new space.

VOYA Update - K. Ribellia

VOYA is reviewing the past five years of employee retirement contributions to identify any discrepancies or issues for each staff member. Internal audits are also being conducted by A. Heinzen and R. Sawyer. CBCD is working with two third-party administrators recommended by VOYA—Randall Hurley and Hunter Benefits—who are preparing proposals to assist with the audit process. Additionally, CBCD will need to change the type of retirement account held with VOYA.

Burn Permit Assistance - D. Roseburg & K. Ribellia

D. Roseburg shared that CBCD will continue assisting the public with obtaining burn permits. Staff are developing online resources and printed handouts to support the permitting process and will coordinate with the Department of Ecology to ensure accurate and helpful information is provided.

OGWRP Update - K Ribellia & H. Crose

The EL 86.4 system has been completed and will convert 5,426 acres from deep well irrigation to Columbia River surface water through the Columbia Basin Project, the largest irrigation

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project in the western United States. This transition has taken 16 wells off line, effectively conserving 16,143 acre-feet (approximately 5.3 billion gallons) of water annually from the Odessa Subarea Aquifer.

ECBID will host a celebration on May 5, 2025. CBCD will be planning an OGWRP tour to coincide with CBCD's 80th anniversary celebration this fall. CBCD is collaborating with the Big Bend team to secure an additional \$10 million for OGWRP implementation. The Washington State Legislature is in session; the current House bill includes \$25 million for OGWRP, with Senator Schoesler supporting an additional \$500,000 for technical assistance. If this funding is not approved, OCR is prepared to cover the costs. A draft interlocal agreement for the East District is in progress. Audrey Rhodes, CBCD's RCPP Program Manager, has submitted her two-week notice and will no longer be with the district.

ECBID ILA (RCPP 84.7 FA) – K. Ribellia

A draft interlocal agreement has been prepared for CBCD to contract with ECBID to install the mainline on the 84.7, ensuring timely payments for the work. The mainline is being funded by NRCS.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the signing of the Interlocal Agreement between CBCD and ECBID. Seconded by G. Burkholder; motion carried.

Moses Lake Watershed Council Update - R. Sawyer

CBCD has contracted Aspect Consulting to review and update the Moses Lake Watershed Plan. The review includes work related to the phosphorus mitigation project, Westshore septic systems, Shoreline Nutrient Assessments, and other efforts to evaluate the most effective role of the Watershed Council moving forward. The QAPP is being rewritten to incorporate new scientific data gathered since the original version. Results from recent lake treatments are expected soon. Groundwater monitoring took place last week, including sampling at the bifurcation of Rocky Ford Creek.

Westshore Drive Septic to Sewer Project - R. Sawyer

The sewer laterals have been installed on Westshore Drive with Western Pacific Engineering assisting with the project.

Other Old Business - None

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NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Training & Workshops – K. Ribellia

The Othello Sandhill Crane Festival and the 8th Annual Eco Gardening Symposium were successful, with CBCD staff conducting presentations and demonstrations.

Ripple Effect Farmer-Led Workshop - May 3rd

The Ripple Effect Workshop will be held at Royal City High School and will be focused on Producers in Lower Crab Creek. CBCD has sent out targeted postcards to producers on Lower Crab Creek for this event.

Irrigation Water Management Training - May 13th-15th

The Irrigation Water Management Training is a statewide training for conservation districts. CBCD will be hosting this event at the new CBCD office.

Crab Creek Summit - June 3rd & 4th

The Crab Creek Summit will be held at the Wanapum Heritage Center. The Wanapum Heritage Center has offered to make a traditional meal for guests on the first day. The second day will be a field day, looking at riparian restoration work in the Crab Creek area.

Moses Lake Carp Classic - May 17th

The Moses Lake Carp Classic will be held on May 17th at Connelly Park in Moses Lake.

CBSWC OGWRP Field Tour - July 17th

The CBSWC July Stakeholder Meeting will be an OGWRP field tour.

Grant County Fair - August 12th-16th

CBCD will have two booths at the Grant County Fair this year and will have both booths fully staffed for the entire week of the fair.

Shrub Steppe Mitigation Proposal – K. Ribellia & K. Wisher

CBCD has initiated conversations with the county regarding support for meeting shrub steppe mitigation requirements. CBCD would like to take the lead in managing the mitigation efforts. This concept was brought to the board prior to further engagement with the county. The board

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was asked to approve continued discussion on next steps. This remains an initial concept, and no further action will be taken without legal consultation to guide how to proceed.

Motion by R. Leitz to continue to work on the Shrub Steppe Mitigation Proposal. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Cost Share Approval – D. Rouleau & W. Haughton

D. Herring (IMP)

Windbreak establishment for approximately one mile of Ponderosa Pine windbreak. The total project cost is \$4,303. This would cover the plant costs, weed fabric, and labor to plant them.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the windbreak establishment for D. Herring. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Cost Share Certifications – D. Rouleau & W. Haughton

J. Gross (MDI)

Cost share for 3 MDI systems that were installed. Each system costs \$64,696.18, which totals \$194,088.54. CBCD will be cost-sharing 50% of the project, totaling \$97,044.27.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for J. Gross. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

T. Prickett (MDI)

The producer has installed a 1,185' MDI system; the total project cost was \$60,585.42. CBCD will be cost-sharing 50% of the project, totaling \$30,292.7.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for T. Prickett. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

J. Gallacci (SFF)

The landowner has planted 2.9 acres in a native grass and pollinator mix as conservation cover. The total project was \$2,526.05. CBCD will be cost-sharing 50% of the project, totaling \$1,263.03. This includes dryland cover mix planted in the dormant season.



Motion by J. Preston to approve the cost share for J. Gallacci. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

N. Derting (VSP)

The landowner has installed two lines of K-Pods irrigation and a tumble wheel fence. The total project is \$7,655.76. CBCD will be cost-sharing 49% at \$3,714.

Motion by R. Letiz to approve the cost share for N. Derting. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

H. Finkbiener (IE)

Landowner has installed two pivot irrigation systems, this was originally wheel-line irrigation. The total project cost was \$185,314.79. CBCD will be cost-sharing up to 50% of the project, at \$92,657.40.

Motion by R. Letiz to approve the cost share for H. Finkbiener. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carried.

S. Michel (IE)

Pump replacement for a 60 hp pump that serves three pivots due to the age and energy use of the old pump. The landowner is also replacing 1 sprinkler package on one of those pivots. The total project cost is \$37,825. We will be cost-sharing at 48% of the project, which is \$18,089.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for S. Michel. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.

WSCC Advance Payment Requests – D. Rouleau

As the end of the biennium approaches, CBCD anticipates large cost-share payments, totaling close to \$1 million between May and June. There is an opportunity to request advance payments from the Washington State Conservation Commission. CBCD plans to submit a grant payment request, asking to receive 50–75% of the total in advance. The Commission will notify CBCD within 10 days of approval, and funds may take up to 5 days to be deposited.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the advanced payment request at 50%. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.



One exemption was made regarding the advanced payment for the \$200,000 project. CBCD will be requesting this project at 75% advanced payment.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the exception for the \$200,000 project. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carried.

Whitman Conservation District ILA (Dairy) – D. Rouleau

CBCD is partnering with Whitman Conservation District through an interlocal agreement to support the WSU non-dairy project, which requires technical expertise. The agreement is not to exceed \$200,000.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Whitman Conservation District ILA. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.

Franklin Conservation District ILA (Dairy) – D. Rouleau

A dairy operation located on the north side of Radar Hill, operated by a Grant County dairyman, is undergoing updates. An interlocal agreement (ILA) with Franklin Conservation District will allow the necessary work to proceed.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Franklin Conservation District LIA for the dairy. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Other New Business

Due to recent federal freezes on DEI-related funding, NACD grants had been temporarily shut down, but activity is now resuming. A new NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) Initiative grant is expected to open this month. CBCD is seeking board approval to apply for the grant, which has a maximum award of \$75,000. Funding from this grant would support projects such as Heritage Gardens and the UWEP program and would benefit CBCD's entire service area.

Motion by R. Leitz to allow CBCD to apply for this grant. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

Motion by J. Preston to accept the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to accept the March 2025 monthly financial report with corrections. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the signing of the Interlocal Agreement between CBCD and ECBID. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by R. Leitz to continue to work on the Shrub Steppe Mitigation Proposal. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the windbreak establishment for D. Herring. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for J. Gross. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for T. Prickett. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the cost share for J. Gallacci. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.



Motion by R. Letiz to approve the cost share for N. Derting. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by R. Letiz to approve the cost share for H. Finkbiener. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the cost share for S. Michel. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.

Motion by G. Burkholder to approve the advanced payment request at 50%. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carried.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the exception for the \$200,000 project. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Whitman Conservation District ILA. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.

Motion by D. Roseburg to approve the Franklin Conservation District LIA for the dairy. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carried.

Motion by R. Leitz to allow CBCD to apply for this grant. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carried.