

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
NRCS / FSA MEETING ROOM-DAVENPORT WA
Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 8:33 AM by Chairman, Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting remotely by Zoom were as follows: Jim Baye, Josh Sherwood, Braidy Haden and Chris Laney - LCCD Supervisors; Ryan Baye, WACD; Mark Stedman, Lincoln County Commissioner; Elsa Bowen, Val Vissia, Kristen Balko, Connor Nikkola, and Dean White - LCCD staff. Elsa displayed the meeting packet files on screen with Zoom.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

- **1. Chris moved to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes as presented. Jim seconded. Motion passed.**

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- **2. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #11159 to #11181, along with 7 EFT's, totaling \$60,687.84. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **3. Jim moved to submit voucher #11 for the VSP 3 grant in the amount of \$9,623.95 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **4. Jim moved to submit voucher #11 for the 20-39-NR grant in the amount of \$19,016.28 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**
- **5. Jim moved to submit voucher #2 for the 20-27-NR grant in the amount of \$158.50 to Adams CD. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **6. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for April 24, 2020 – May 26, 2020 be approved. The total amount owed was \$598.48. Chris seconded. Discussion was held. The \$437.51 in cash rewards listed on the statement will be applied to the July Visa card bill. Motion passed.**
- **7. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Cenex credit card statement with a closing date of May 10, 2020. The total amount owed was \$328.57. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.**

Elsa noted that Delaini will be mailing the original bank statements along with the Treasurer's Report signature page out to each board member to sign one at a time and then forward on to the other board members and return back to the office.

The Board reviewed the report of the current annual leave/sick leave balances for District employees.

- **8. Jim moved to approve the Treasurer's report and the Grant's report as presented. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**

C. AGENDA

COVID-19 Update

Elsa emailed PDF's of the Washington State Phased Approach to Recovery and NRCS Reopening Procedures and guides on masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to board members and to staff. Roylene Comes at Night, State NRCS Conservationist, has announced that offices around the state will be reopening for employees, but only 10 employees at a time can be working in the NRCS side of the office at a time. Employees will not be required to wear masks as long as they maintain a safe social distance of 6 feet or more.

County Commissioners Report

Mark reported that Lincoln County is now in Phase 3 of reopening. Gatherings of less than 50 people can now meet as long as participants wear masks and maintain 6-foot social distancing. Employees in the county are supposed to wear masks at work if they can't maintain 6-foot social distancing, and their employers are required to provide masks for their employees. Mark also announced that Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office will NOT be enforcing the requirement to wear masks. Whether or not the state Labor and Industries (L & I) agency will be actively enforcing mask wearing is not known at this time.

Mark reported that the Courthouse is still closed while plexiglass shields are being obtained to protect county workers. There is now a significant backlog with cases in Lincoln County courts, and there are issues with the Lincoln County jail not being able to accept prisoners from out of county, and with the county not being able to transfer juvenile offenders to Martin Hall in Medical Lake. Reports on state gas tax revenues for the January – March are not good, with revenues down about 60% and state wide budget cuts soon to follow. The Office of Columbia River is already planning to implement 15% budget cuts for the year

Grants Update

Elsa announced that the well level monitoring grant for Lincoln County had now been extended 1 year to June 30, 2021. Part of the requirements for obtaining the 1 year grant extension is that Lincoln County CD staff will enter well level measurement data into the Ecology EIM database from up to 50 wells in other counties in eastern and

central Washington measured in early spring and late fall as part of the deliverables for the Applied Science grant from BOR that will be administered by WSU. Kristen noted that the Conservation Innovation Grant application for soil health practices was submitted by the Palouse Conservation District to NRCS several weeks ago for a 5 year, \$3.4 million grant request.

Elsa has submitted a proposed task order for District staff to work on Phase II of the CRP 54 signup plan writing that is scheduled to start July 1 and provide up to \$72,000 to reimburse staff time for working on the CRP plans. While District staff has worked in the office to assemble file folders for Phase I of the task order, Jeff Kuhlman with NRCS has been evaluating existing CRP stands in the field. Jim asked what happens if existing CRP stands for re-enrollment in the CRP 54 signup do not meet NRCS specifications. Elsa noted that plans will still be written for existing stands that fail the required specifications, and that the FSA County Committee will most likely still approve these CRP stands with provisions for improving the stand. Josh asked if District staff might be working on task orders to assist with CSP and/or EQIP planning writing in the future. It was noted that the West Palouse Team has requested assistance to complete CSP and EQIP plan development from Jonny George, East Area Conservationist.

Cost Share Approval

The Cost Share Action spreadsheet was displayed on the Zoom share screen. There was one application for LCCD project funding and one payment request for the DOE Direct Seed grant from Lincoln County.

9. Chris moved to approve the Cost Share Action spreadsheet at presented. Josh seconded. Motion passed.

Eddie Johnson Memorial

A memorial brick has been ordered and will be installed at the Davenport Community garden to honor Eddie's long service as a Lincoln County CD Board Supervisor. Aaron Esser has approved the tree and shrub planting windbreak design for the Wilke farm that was developed by Connor for the Austrian pine and caragana to be planted around the buildings in memory of Eddie. Connor is working on a drip system design for the windbreak.

WACD Update

Ryan reported that he and Tom Salzer have been participating in as many online remote CD board meetings as possible. Tom participated in 4 CD board meetings across the state yesterday. Elections of CD Board Supervisors were approved in May with the changeout of retiring board members and new board members coming on in some districts. There are no changes this year for the Lincoln County CD Board of Supervisors. Stevens County CD is scheduled to host the 2020 NE Area Meeting in October and has already expressed a preference to hold the meeting in person. WACD has volunteered to assist with holding virtual/remote Area meetings upon request.

There will be no more extension of the exemption of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) rules past June 17. Republican legislators are seeking a special session to address budget woes, OPMA rules, and other issues before the end of the fiscal year. State agencies have already been asked by the Governor to cut their budgets by an

across the board 15% for the next fiscal year. The WACD Board of Supervisors has already voted to pursue a virtual/remote meeting for the annual WACD Conference in late fall. Mike Mumford from Pend Oreille CD has been selected as the new NE Area Representative on the WACD board. Ryan encouraged board members to send him any ideas they may have to improve the annual WACD Conference.

Diversity Training

WACD Executive Director Tom Salzer emailed a letter on ideas for diversity training for CD boards across the state. Jeff asked if anybody had any ideas or suggestions for diversity training. Chris asked if the training was to address the diversity of board supervisors or the diversity of people living in the county. Ryan noted that Tom's letter was intended to get the conversation started on diversity in CD boards across the state and investigate if there is a role for CD's to play with addressing diversity in their own counties. Diversity training will probably a part of the annual WACD Conference remote meeting this year. Jeff noted that diversity on the Lincoln County CD board is a matter of age differences. More women have been elected to CD boards across the state this year. Ryan reminded the Board that WACD can not make any requirements for diversity that Lincoln County CD must follow.

Conservation Commission Report

Elsa reported that she has sent the annual allocation request for the implementation grant to the Conservation Commission for the next fiscal year with no changes from the 2019 request. Elsa also reported that Enduris has announced that it will be raising insurance rates for CD's due in part to the coronavirus pandemic, including 10-15% for property, 5-10% for liability and 8-12% for auto physical damage, crime and named position coverage. Elsa asked if the Board wanted to investigate looking into other insurance company coverage, while recognizing that there are not a lot of insurance companies available that are willing to insure special purpose districts like conservation districts. No suggestions were made.

Update from Spokane CD Meeting

Jeff attended the board meeting at Spokane CD last night and observed how SCD is addressing operations affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also announced that Spokane CD will not be renewing their contract to manage the NW Direct Seed Association.

NRCS Report

The NRCS report emailed by Rich Edlund, acting WPT District Conservationist, was displayed on the Zoom shared screen. NRCS staff are working quite a bit on CSP contracts. Cari Roepke, the new WPT District Conservationist, will be starting work in the office on June 22.

FSA Report

There was no FSA report.

Miscellaneous Items

Dean reported that he had recently sent draft well level grant spreadsheets to GeoEngineers and to an Ecology EIM Coordinator for initial review. The draft results spreadsheet has 1,274 rows with well level results from about 80 wells from June 2018 up through April 2020. Draft well location spreadsheets were also sent.

Dean attended the recent remote Ag Burn Task Force meeting and noted that Lincoln County had the second lowest number of acres burned and permit fees received for the eastern Washington counties that are issuing burn permits. While weather for June is expected to remain cooler and wetter than normal, hotter and drier weather conditions are expected to return for July and August and there may be a larger than average amounts of acres burned for the wildfire season.

Dean also noted that multiple precip stations across the county had reported 3 or more inches of precip for May, with several stations in the more southern and eastern portions of the county reporting over 4 inches of precip. Multiple locations in the south-central part of the county reported damage from the severe thunderstorm event on May 30th, with tree branches broke and some trees toppled, power poles broken leading to power outages, and some outbuildings blown over and destroyed by the thunderstorm gust front winds.

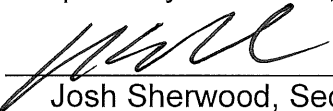
Val is scheduled to return to work at the office on next Tuesday, June 16.

Public Comment

Jeff commented that while the online board meetings allowed board meetings to continue during the Covid-19 pandemic, a lot of interaction had been lost by not having in person meetings and it will be nice to have everybody present in person again at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jeff Schibel at 9:37 AM. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 starting at 8:30 AM. Since the exemption for the Public Meetings Act was scheduled to expire on June 17 with no more renewals but was then later extended to at least July 1, it is unknown at this time if the July board meeting will be held in person at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds kitchen to allow for adequate social distancing or if the meeting will be held remotely again on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Sherwood, Secretary



Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 9 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #11159 to #11181, along with 7 EFT's, totaling \$60,687.84.
- 3. M/S/P to submit voucher #11 for the VSP 3 grant in the amount of \$9,623.95 to the Conservation Commission.
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