

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
USDA Service Center Conference Room – Davenport, WA  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 8:46 AM by Chairman, Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting in person were as follows: Jim Baye, Chris Laney, Josh Sherwood, and Braidy Haden - LCCD Supervisors; Ashley Smith, FSA; Elsa Bowen, Delaini Disher, Debra Armstrong, and Dean White - LCCD staff.

**A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:**

- *1. Chris moved to approve the July 12, 2023 minutes as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.*

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:**

- *2. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #12167 to #12237, along with 47 EFT's, totaling \$748,676.54. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Elsa reported that the final payment for the riparian tree and shrub planting this year had been received from Carl Hedreen and that the Cobb Ranch WRP planting project administered by NRCS was finished, with no more support from Lincoln County needed. There was no further public comment. Motion passed.*
- *3. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the WaterSMART grant in the amount of \$15,356.98 to the Bureau of Reclamation. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *4. Jim moved to submit voucher #5 for the WaterSMART grant in the amount of \$6,927.88 to the Bureau of Reclamation. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *5. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the Direct Seed 3 grant in the amount of \$36,346.63 to DOE. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *6. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the 24-39-NR grant in the amount of \$1,667.40 to the Conservation Commission. Chris seconded. Motion passed.*
- *7. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the 24-39-IM grant in the amount of \$22,268.46 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- *8. Jim moved to submit voucher #2 for the 24-39-IM grant in the amount of \$19,287.08 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*

- **9. Jim moved to submit voucher #3 for the 24-39-IM grant in the amount of \$15,582.91 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **10. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the VSP 5 grant in the amount of \$6,241.39 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **11. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for June 24, 2023 through July 25, 2023 be approved. The total amount owed was \$903.51. Chris seconded. Discussion was held. Elsa noted that the rock chip in the Tahoe's windshield had been repaired at the auto shop in Wilbur. New aluminum dog tags with the District name and address were purchased and attached to new equipment recently purchased by the District in June with end of fiscal year grant funds from the Conservation Commission. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**
- **12. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for July 26, 2023 through August 24, 2023 be approved. The total amount owed was \$1,441.61. Josh seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**
- **13. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for August 25, 2023 through September 25, 2023 be approved. The total amount owed was \$624.93. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**
- **14. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of July 31, 2023. The total amount owed was \$64.49. Chris seconded. Motion passed.**
- **15. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of August 15, 2023. The total amount owed was \$110.51. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **16. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of August 31, 2023. The total amount owed was \$112.37. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.**
- **17. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of September 30, 2023. The total amount owed was \$143.35. Chris seconded. Jim requested that staff look into the possibility of Lincoln County CD applying for a carbon tax exemption to help save on gas costs. Motion passed.**

After reviewing the statements, the Board members initialed each page of the bank statements for the checking and money market accounts.

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

Elsa reported that District staff were working on the application for another \$90,000 WaterSMART grant from the Bureau of Reclamation.

- **18. Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Grant's report as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**

## **C. AGENDA**

### **Cost Share Update**

Elsa reported that the Direct Seed 3 grant recipients had started sending their cost share payment requests to the District. Braidy and Elsa both noted that the current cost for direct seeding is about \$40 per acre and that Ecology should increase the direct seed grant cost share rate from \$28 per acre to \$40 per acre.

Hardcopies of the Cost Share Action spreadsheet for October were distributed. Six requests for cost share payment from the Direct Seed 3 grant had been received for a total of \$40,992.00.

- **19. Jim moved to approve the Cost Share Action spreadsheet as presented. Josh seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**

### **Building Update**

Elsa reported that District staff would be making the final move of office and cubicle supplies over to the Auditorium in the fairgrounds Kitchen building today after the meeting. A hired mover is coming this morning to move the District's Ricoh copier over to the Auditorium. District, NRCS and FSA staff will all be working temporarily in the Auditorium up through the end of January while the Davenport Service Center is being remodeled. Jim asked what the reason was for the remodeling. Elsa noted that the office lease was up for renewal and that FPAC (Farm Production and Conservation), the USDA agency in charge of NRCS, FSA and RMA, is requiring a revised office space format for these agencies. Elsa noted that a fence is planned to be installed around the east parking lot. District staff are hoping that current District cubicles in the office will be reinstalled in the remodeled office so that staff will retain the same size cubicles in the office and will not be forced into even smaller cubicles.

### **Surplus Equipment**

Elsa reported that a list of surplus equipment had been emailed to Board members. The list includes the white 4-door pickup and other items. The bids are set to close before the next board meeting and advertising will begin next week.

### **Vehicle Update**

Elsa announced that the new brown Colorado 4 X 4, 4-door pickup had arrived and was parked out in the parking lot.

### **Well Monitoring**

Elsa reported that District staff had been working on finding another 13 wells with well owners interested in participating in well level measurements for the NE Well Level grant but that only 2 additional wells had been found so far. The current WaterSMART grant will end in December and a final report of projects completed will need to be done.

### **Technical Assistance Agreement with Adams CD**

Elsa reported that Adams CD had received a new Implementation grant for \$4,500 and a new NRI grant for \$5,500. Adams CD is requesting technical assistance from Lincoln County CD to help implement projects funded by these grants in Adams County.

- **19. Jim moved to approve a new technical assistance agreement with Adams CD. Josh seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**

### **VSP Update**

Lincoln County has received \$240,000 in new Voluntary Stewardship Program funding from the Conservation Commission. White Bluffs Consulting has served as the consultant for VSP in Lincoln County and has assisted District staff with VSP funded projects in the county.

- **20. Chris moved to approve White Bluffs Consulting as the consultant for VSP in Lincoln County for the new VSP grant. Jim seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**

### **NE Engineering Cluster Update**

Stevens County CD serves as the administrator for NE Area Engineering Cluster grant funding from the Conservation Commission. Lincoln County has been allocated \$70,000 for engineering design assistance funding from the latest grant. Elsa reported that \$36,000 of the new grant funding will be applied for engineering designs required for the Harrington dairy.

### **Elections**

Jeff's position is up for reappointment and Josh's position is up for reelection in the 2024 elections in March. A big question now is whether or not the District wants to mail out 8,000 + ballots again to all registered voters in the county like it did for the first time this past spring, or go back to individual requests from voters for absentee ballots and have only about 20 – 30 registered voters participating to vote in the election.

Elsa proposed that for March 2024, the District should look into hiring Parks Print to stuff and mail the absentee ballots for all 8,000 + registered voters, and that the back of the ballots be printed with information and outreach about who and what the Lincoln County Conservation District is and what services and programs it provides to local residents in the county.

### **NE Area Meeting**

Elsa reminded Board members that the NE Area Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at Spokane CD and will be hosted by Pend Oreille CD. The current plan is for everyone planning to attend to ride in the Tahoe and leave from the Auditorium by 7:30 AM. Chris, Jeff and Jim are planning on attending the NE Area meeting. A treat

package will be provided by the District for door prizes. Delaini will be giving the PowerPoint presentation.

### **Annual WACD Meeting**

The Annual WACD Meeting will be held in Wenatchee on November 27 – 29. Elsa has been working on registrations for Board members. At this time Jeff, Chris and Elsa are planning on attending and Braidy will be attending by Zoom. The annual WAWG wheat growers meeting should have already been held before the WACD meeting.

### **WACD Update**

Jeff reported that the 2024 WACD Meeting will be held in the Tri-Cities but that the 2025 meeting will be held at Northern Quest Casino or a downtown Spokane hotel. The recent WACD Board meeting was held on September 18. Jon Wyss with FSA gave a presentation on the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). Lincoln County CD isn't eligible for CREP due to Grand Coulee Dam and no other continuous streams with anadromous fish connected to the Columbia River. The area focus for the meeting was the North Central Washington CD's. Net income for WACD is down some due to the lower stock market. PMC costs are up for the year while tree and shrub sales are about the same as this time last year.

### **FSA Report**

Ashley reported that acreage reporting is due December 15 and that it would be better to report acreage earlier as opposed to later in case the federal government shuts down on November 15. Producers can call the regular FSA phone number and an email will be sent to the FSA computers by the Jabber software in the Auditorium. CRP payments are going out next week. ERP payments are going out but PARP payments can't be paid until ERP is done. Otherwise, FSA activities are at a relative standstill until the new farm bill is signed. FSA is advertising for 2 positions again as only Ashley, Roxy and Matt are working in the Davenport FSA office right now.

### **Miscellaneous**

Dean distributed hardcopies of the 2022 – 2023 crop year and cumulative average precip comparison map and spreadsheets along with the current drought condition map for Washington. The majority of the 23 precip cooperators stations had less to significantly less precip compared to the 2021 – 2022 crop year and compared to the available long term crop year precip average for each station. Only the far northwestern precip stations north of Hwy 2 received significantly above average precip this year due primarily to heavy precip, east to west moving thunderstorms in spring and summer. Only the far northwest corner of the county is shown as being in no drought status while the center of the county is abnormally dry and the southeast corner of the county is rated as D1 moderate drought.

Dean also distributed an updated chart of the well level fluctuations for BIU506 compared to the precip received at the South Fork precip station from summer 2015 through September 2023. The well level trend is down a little bit due to less precip and runoff in recent years, but well levels that drop in summer have always recovered back to higher well level peaks over winter and early spring. In other words, the BIU506 well level is sustainable and has remained sustainable so far ever since it was drilled in

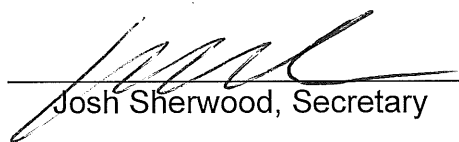
2015, most likely due to modern recharge from Crab Creek farther up in the watershed to the northeast.

### **Request for Public Comment**

Jeff asked if there was any more public comment for the meeting. There was no public comment.

Chairman Jeff Schibel adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM. The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 as an in-person meeting starting at 8:30 AM. With remodeling of the USDA Service Center in Davenport starting on October 11 and extending through January 2024, the November meeting will not be able to be held in the Service Center. The November meeting scheduled to be held in the upstairs conference room above the Auditorium at the fairgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Josh Sherwood, Secretary

  
Dean White, Minute Taker

### **SUMMARY:**

All 20 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the July 12, 2023 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #12167 to #12237, along with 47 EFT's, totaling \$748,676.54.
- 3. M/S/P to submit voucher #4 for the WaterSMART grant in the amount of \$15,356.98 to the Bureau of Reclamation.
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