

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
USDA Service Center Conference Room – Davenport, WA
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 8:45 AM by Chairman Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting in person or by Zoom were as follows: Josh Sherwood and Braidy Haden, - LCCD Supervisors; Ryan Wiater, LCCD Supervisor candidate; Rick Perleberg, Agriculture and Natural Resources Teacher for Reardan along with 7 members of the Reardan FFA Debate Team; Ashley Smith, FSA; Elsa Bowen, Delaini Disher, Brean Nieman, Matthew Rosman, Elayne Hovde-Knudson, and Dean White - LCCD staff.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

1. *Braidy moved to approve the February 12, 2026 minutes as presented. Josh seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.*

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- 2. *Braidy moved to pay and approve vouchers #13006 to #13033, along with 44 EFT's, totaling \$76,617.54. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- 3. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #8 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$5,243.26 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 4. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #29 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$58.61 to Adams CD. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 5. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #8 for the 26-39-NR grant in the amount of \$6,554.63 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 6. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #8 for the 26-39-IM grant in the amount of \$2,888.94 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 7. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #8 for the VSP 6 grant in the amount of \$21,272.03 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 8. *Braidy moved to submit voucher #5 for the 26-39-PFR grant in the amount of \$1,275.04 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*

- **9. Braidy moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for January 24, 2026 through February 23, 2026 be approved. The total amount owed was \$1,112.99. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **10. Braidy moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of February 15, 2026. The total amount owed was \$98.02. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **11. Braidy moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of February 28, 2026. The total amount owed was \$115.38. Josh seconded. 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.

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

C. AGENDA

Reardan FFA Debate Team Presentations

The Reardan FFA Debate Team presentations were given at the start of the meeting and before the regular portions of the meeting were addressed. Rick Perleberg, Agriculture and Natural Resources teacher at Reardan High School, brought 7 members of the Reardan FFA Debate Team to give two debate presentations at the Board Meeting and answer questions from the Board and staff. PowerPoint presentations on the big TV screen in the conference room were used as an integral part of the debate presentations.

The first presentation focused on the problems caused by presence of wolf packs primarily in northeast Washington and how the Washington post wolf predation plan compares to similar plans in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Livestock producers in NE Washington have been dealing with livestock losses by wolves for years and are not satisfied with the attempts by WDFW to address these losses. Livestock compensation and relocation of wolves are some of the options tried but have not had as much success as hoped. Debate Team members noted that there is only \$50,000 a year to compensate livestock producers for losses by wolves and that the livestock producers in the affected areas consider this compensation effort as a joke. Rick noted that the local reservations such as the Colville Indian Reservation have their own authority to deal with wolf packs and that wolves attacking their livestock are shot and removed as needed.

The second Debate Team addressed PFAS contamination in groundwater in the West Plains area and if Spokane County can help address the issues faced by affected residents and landowners in the area. The Debate Team noted that PFAS chemicals (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl compounds formed by multiple fluorine atoms attached to an alkyl chain) were first widely used back in the late 1930's – early 1940's with the introduction of Teflon nonstick coatings in cooking pans and that PFAS have also been used in many other consumer products since then such as waterproof fabrics and clothes, food packaging, and firefighting foams. A fire disaster on a US aircraft carrier in 1967 hastened the production and use of PFAS fire fighting foam that would later be used on 524 airports and 700+ military air bases across the country. The former extensive use of PFAS fire fighting foams at the Spokane Airport and Fairchild Air Force Base has been identified as the primary source of the PFAS contamination in the West Plains area. Rick noted that 3M and DuPont knew as far back as the 1940's that the PFAS chemicals they were producing were toxic to their human customers and were "forever chemicals" that don't naturally degrade on their own.

Dr Chad Pritchard, a hydrogeologist and professor at Eastern Washington University, has studied and mapped the flood deposit gravels and upper basalt interflow zones in the Wanapum basalt flows in the West Plains area and how these higher permeability zones have spread PFAS contamination in runoff water from the Spokane Airport and Fairchild Air Force Base to a much larger area in the West Plains surrounding these airfields. PFAS contamination in the West Plains area has been measured as high as 57 times greater than the national average for PFAS contamination. The PFAS contamination in local groundwater wells across significant areas of the West Plains is so high now that local livestock and poultry farmers can no longer sell their animals that are watered with untreated water from their wells, and the local residents also face significant health risks from their well water and can no longer drink it without treatment.

The Debate Team noted that filters that are able to filter out the PFAS in well water have been found and are being installed in well houses next to contaminated wells in the West Plains areas, but there have been issues with getting these filters and well houses installed and paid for in all of the contaminated groundwater areas. The water test for detecting the level of PFAS content in well water is quite expensive by itself, and water filters to provide the larger amounts of clean water to livestock and poultry is very expensive. At this time, the only known way to eliminate PFAS compounds is to incinerate these chemicals at very temperatures. Financial, water testing, and installation help is needed from Spokane County to assist the affected residents and landowners in the West Plains area.

Overall, the Reardan FFA Debate Teams did a great job of presenting the debate issues, debating between members of their own team, and answering questions and interacting with LCCD Board Members and staff.

Increase in Reserve Fund for Employee Liability Coverage

It was noted at the February 12 meeting that Fund #30, the Reserve Fund for Employee Liability Coverage, was no longer able to cover all of the potential liability and that a motion should be made at the March Board Meeting to increase the reserve funding in this fund account. The fund account was set at \$125,000, but the total

employee liability in the Board Member packets today was listed as more than \$128,000.

13. Josh moved to increase the Employee Liability Coverage Fund to \$150,000 Braidy seconded. Motion passed.

Internal Audit Report

Elsa reported that the annual Internal Audit and the Schedule 22 form had been completed with the assistance of Mike Baden and that the District had successfully passed all of the reviews.

Elections Update

Delaini reported that up to 400 Board Supervisor elections ballots had been received back from the registered voters in the county so far. Elsa announced that the District had election signs for Board members to place in their area to remind and encourage local residents to vote and return their ballots to the District. Delaini stapled around the top and sides of the signs to help them hold up better in the wind.

Grants Update

Brean will giving a presentation on the CBSWC (Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition) Drought Preparedness Plan grant at the 2026 Northwest Groundwater Conference in Boise, Idaho that will run March 17th – March 18th. Kevin Lindsey will also be attending the conference and will give a presentation on the NE Lincoln County Well Level grant results.

Brean has finished sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Drought Preparedness grant and is now working on community involvement within the 4 FLAG (Franklin, Lincoln, Adams, and Grant) county area and with the local tribes. The grant will expire in February 2027.

Matthew is close to being finished with the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) grant. NW Management is working on the final updated CWPP plan and then Matthew will send a notice for public comment to local newspapers. Several cooperators are waiting for cost estimates from a contractor in order to apply for the Forest Health grant. Matthew is also working on submitting a post-fire reseeding grant for land burned by the Moccasin Bay fire this last summer.

Elsa reported that the Terry Husseman grant application for the removal of tires from the streambank of a small stream in the Porcupine Bay area has been approved and the final grant award amount award is being determined (\$70,000 to \$80,000). The other Husseman grant application for installing beaver dam analogs in Little Creek along Estate Road is the next grant in line to be funded by Ecology.

Elayne has obtained a \$8,700 grant for a wildlife windbreak project, and will submit 3 VSP grant applications by the end of April.

Elsa announced that Mark Green will be giving a Virtual Fence presentation at Davenport Memorial Hall on April 22 that is open to the public and will serve lunch.

Elsa will be giving a Zoom presentation on the current status of the Edwall Drainage Cleanout Project grant application to the Department of Ecology evaluation team on March 31. An informational meeting for landowners affected by the Edwall Drainage Cleanout Project grant may be held at a later date.

Cost Share Spreadsheet

Copies of the Cost Share Spreadsheet for the March 11 Board Meeting were distributed. There was one application for the 26-39-NR grant for a Wind/Shelterbelt project for \$8,700.00 and one application for the 26-39-PFR grant for a Post Fire Reseeding project for \$5,900 for a total of \$14,600.00

14. Josh moved to approve the Cost Share Action sheet for the March 11 Board Meeting as presented. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.

Enduris Insurance Coverage Presentation

Joe Davis, Director of Risk Management with Enduris gave a presentation titled "Membership has Benefits" that listed the various insurance benefits available to Lincoln County Conservation District with a PowerPoint presentation on the big TV screen in the conference room. Velvet Bachman, Underwriting and Risk Management, also assisted with the presentation.

Joe noted that the last time he gave the insurance benefits presentation at a Lincoln County CD Board meeting was in 2023. Lincoln County has been a member of Enduris since 1995. Enduris was formed in 1987. It now has 500 members only within Washington and has \$5 billion in assets. There are 17 types of special purpose districts across the state that are fellow members of Enduris.

There are 4 main types of insurance coverage that Enduris provides: Liability, Property, Bond, and Auto. Up to \$20 million is available for liability coverage for each occurrence. The property division has a \$1,250,000,000 pool aggregate. Enduris handles claims in house and dispatches local claims adjusters.

Joe noted that Lincoln County CD will need sign up for additional drone coverage for when any new drones purchased in the future are actively flying for the District's protection in case there is a drone crash or some other kind of accident. Joe also noted that if the Lincoln County CD chooses to purchase and rent biochar rings to local cooperators in the future, it should develop a no harm waiver for the District and a list of required steps for cooperators to follow, such as obtaining an Ag Burn permit for biochar burning, obtaining the final permission from their local fire chief to conduct the burn, and notifying the local Sheriff's office of the burn.

Jeff asked if he as a District Board Member drove his own vehicle to the annual WACD Meeting in November and was involved in an accident, would he be covered by the District's Enduris policy. Joe noted that Jeff's personal vehicle insurance would cover the accident first, due to WA RCW code, and then Enduris would provide secondary coverage as needed.

Tree Sale Update

Elsa reported that most of the species in the 2026 Tree Sale are already sold out and that the only species with stems left for purchase are blue spruce, chokecherry, golden currant (only 2 bundles), ponderosa pine and serviceberry. The refrigerated trailer from Class 8 Trucking will be dropped off at the fairgrounds and the first tree sale stems from the PMC and Spokane CD will be arriving at Spokane CD on March 18th or 19th. Tree sale packing will take place on April 15 and tree sale order pickup will be on April 16th and 17th.

WACD Update

Jeff reported that Craig Nelson, District Manager for Okanogan CD, gave a presentation at the current Legislative session in Olympia on how conservation

districts across the state are helping with post-fire restoration efforts within their local districts. Cindy Schafer has been elected as the new Treasurer for WACD. Plant sales at the PMC Nursery are down about 7% and 1.2 million plants have been harvested so far this year. Dean noted one and perhaps minor reason why the PMC sales are down this year is because the PMC has not had several common native shrub species such as serviceberry available for sale as EW (Eastern Washington) seed source seedlings that are winter hardy for the county. Lincoln County CD along with Spokane CD have had to search and order these seedlings from other nurseries. In addition, the EW blue elderberry planting for 2025 failed to germinate, making it more expensive to buy and in the end, unavailable to buy blue elderberry seedlings for the 2026 tree sale or for EQIP and CSP plantings this spring.

Elsa noted that the District has been working with the Lincoln County Cattlemans Association on how to respond after a wildfire burned has burned grazing ground, including contacting FSA and contacting Lincoln County CD.

Conservation Commission Report

There was no Conservation Commission Report.

County Commissioners Report

There was no County Commissioners Report.

NRCS Report

There was no NRCS Report.

FSA Report

Ashley provided an update on activities for the Davenport FSA office. Appointments for the new Continuous and General CRP signups are currently booked up because Ashley is the only staff member able to work on the program. The General CRP signup and the FBA (Farmers Bridge Assistance) program signup both end on April 17. Emily, an FSA staff member from the Spokane Office, will be assisting the Davenport FSA Office one day a week for the near future.

2025 Calendar Year Precipitation Spreadsheets and Maps

Copies of the 2025 Calendar Year Precip Totals and October through December spreadsheet and map along with copies of the 2025 Calendar Year Precip Totals and 2025 versus 2024 Precip Comparison spreadsheet and map were distributed. Dean noted that for the 2025 Calendar Year, much more precip was received than usual for October and all of the precip stations received about half of all the precip they received for the year from October through December. In addition, the vast majority of the cooperator precip stations received less to significantly less calendar year precip for 2025 versus 2024.

Miscellaneous

Elsa announced that a new Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS concerning District staff using office space in the Davenport USDA Service Center needs to be reviewed and signed by the Board by June.

The annual Local Working Group meeting for NRCS and local Lincoln and Adams county producers to identify the priorities for EQIP funding will be held on June 3rd in Ritzville at the WAWG (Washington Association of Wheat Growers) meeting room.

The District sent letters of support for the Conservation Commission budget requests.

Braidy noted that Lincoln County CD is the only conservation district in the state that is supporting the PNW Canola Association with an annual membership contribution.

Brean is about 75 – 85% finished with the annual financial report that needs to be submitted to the Conservation Commission by May 30.

A thank you card for Mike Baden was passed around for Board members to sign. Mike will be leaving the Conservation Commission on March 13 and will begin working for Spokane CD on April 1.

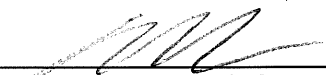
Request for Public Comment

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

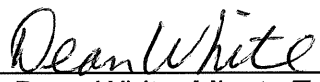
Chairman Jeff Schibel adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Sherwood, Secretary



Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 14 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the February 12, 2026 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #13006 to #13033, along with 44 EFT's, totaling \$76,617.54.
- 3. M/S/P to submit voucher #8 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$5,243.26 to the Conservation Commission.
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