

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
NRCS / FSA MEETING ROOM-DAVENPORT WA
Wednesday, November 17, 2017**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman, Mike Carstensen. Those attending the meeting were as follows: Eddie Johnson, Jim Baye and Jeff Schibel - LCCD Supervisors; Sara Cossio, FSA; Elsa Bowen, Val Vissia, Lea Shields, and Dean White - LCCD staff. The originally scheduled meeting for November 8 was cancelled due to no quorum.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

- *1. Jim moved to approve the October 11 minutes as presented. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- *2. Eddie moved to pay and approve vouchers #10625 to #10288, along with 8 EFT's, totaling \$47,197.82. Jeff seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- *3. Eddie moved to submit vouchers 4 for the 18-39-IM grant in the amount of \$4,235.48 to the Conservation Commission. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*
- *4. Eddie moved to submit vouchers 13 & 14 for the LC Sage Grouse Mitigation & Education grant in the amounts of \$1,322.88 and \$1,011.36, respectively, to BLM. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*
- *5. Eddie moved to submit voucher #13 for the RCPP (WRIA 34) grant in the amount of \$1,069.90 to Palouse CD. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*
- *6. Eddie moved to submit voucher #2 for the Well Monitoring grant in the amount of \$19,612.78 to DOE. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*
- *7. Eddie moved to submit voucher #1 for the FAC 2 grant in the amount of \$3,214.28 to the SCWRCD. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*
- *8. Eddie moved to submit voucher #3 for the VSP 2 grant in the amount of \$2,733.45 to the Conservation Commission. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.*

- **9. Eddie moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District Visa statement for September 26, 2017 – October 23, 2017 be approved. The total amount owed was \$1,090.15. Jim seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **10. Eddie moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Cenex credit card statement with a closing date of October 10, 2017. The total amount owed was \$140.14. Jim seconded. Motion passed.**

After review, the Board 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 the District employees.

Elsa reported that the 2018 BIAS Software bill was due for \$2,895.99

11. Eddie moved to approve the payment of the 2018 BIAS Software bill for \$2,895.99. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

12. Eddie moved to approve to State Auditor's fee of \$4,608.45 for the recently completed policy and procedure audit. Jim seconded. Discussion was held. The audit was all done out of the office in Spokane. The fee was for about 49 hours at \$93.10 per hour. The audit closeout meeting was done over the phone. No issues or findings were found. The next audit 3 years later for 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be held in 2020. This audit will be a regular financial audit. Motion passed.

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

C. AGENDA

Elections

Eddie is up for reelection and Jeff is up for reappointment in 2018. If the elections need to be held, they are scheduled for February 14, 2018, from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM in the conference room in the office. Eddie and any other candidate filing for the elected position needs to have the elections form filled out with the signatures of at least 25 other registered voters in Lincoln County. Resolution 2017 – 3 for 2018 Elections has been prepared.

14. Jim moved to approve Resolution 2017 – 3 for 2018 Elections. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

WACD Convention and Issues

The 2017 WACD Convention will be held next week from November 27 – 29 in the Tri-Cities. Everyone attending the convention was reminded to park in the back parking lot of the SpringHill Suites hotel where there are security cameras. Everyone also needs to keep track of their mileage to the convention and the first night meal which is not provided by WACD. Attending a local hockey game is a possibility for anyone who would like to attend.

Eddie mentioned some issues that may be discussed at the convention. WACD will probably approve a 2% COLA pay raise for its employees. No action has been taken yet to buy out the \$32,000 in overtime from the PMC Manager, but this needs to be done soon. If the PMC provides bonuses to employees in the future, IRS rules require that statements accompany the bonuses in order to be legal. The PMC has not had to be audited before, but now that it is being merged with WACD, it will undergo audits in the future.

Several board members did not send their individual surveys back on long term funding options because the survey required them to enter their name. An overall response from the Board will be requested in the near future. Ron Schultz has improved enough that he is now out of the hospital.

Tires for the Heavy Duty 4 X 4

The current tires on the 2 door heavy duty pickup are getting worn out and are not safe for winter time driving on snow, even with 4-wheel drive. An estimate of about \$1,200 was obtained from Les Schwab in Davenport for 4 new 10 ply Back Country SQ-4 tires mounted and balanced. These are the same tires that were mounted on the white 4-door pickup last year.

15. Jim moved to approve the purchase and installation of 4 new tires on the heavy duty pickup for about \$1,200 with the estimate as presented from Les Schwab in Davenport. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

2018 Tree Sale

Val handed out copies of the draft 2018 tree sale flyer and order form. This form will be available for pickup at the office and will be mailed out on request. District staff will also be assisting the 2018 Cobb Ranch WRP replanting by ordering and provided potted stock from Plants of the Wild and willow poles from the PMC. For the replanting, 5,000 stems will be planted. The District will be reimbursed for the stock from NRCS. Another project that needs to be addressed is the rebuilding of the livestock fence across the main stem of Crab Creek that protects the Cobb Ranch riparian plantings from livestock grazing on the land upstream.

CWMA Grant Cost Share Projects

Elsa presented the following list of cooperators applying to Cooperative Weed Management Area grant for funding to help control noxious weeds:

Bly Ranches Inc - \$2,000 grant application

Rustemeyer Farms - \$2,000 grant application

Laren Hesseltine – completed project, requesting cost share on \$250.94 in expenses

16. Jim moved to approve the CWMA grant projects as presented. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

Lincoln County CD Cost Share Projects

Elsa presented the following list of cooperators who had completed their cost share projects with Lincoln County CD funding and presented the following expenses for cost share:

BK Farms – VERLO LLC - \$5,333.85

Foot Burner Agripriprises (Gary Cook) – cross fencing/prescribed grazing – \$7,353.50

17. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County cost share projects for cost share as presented. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

Other cost share projects that the District is working on include the Schneider and the Reinbold spring development projects, funded with Conservation Commission funding. The EZ-1 cultural resource forms were completed and sent to the state Department of Historical and Archeological Preservation (DAHP) and to the Colville Tribes and the Spokane Tribe. Since DAHP has already recommended that cultural field reviews be done by an archeologist for each project, Elsa has contacted Plateau Archeological Investigations for assistance on these projects.

Another cost share project is the Dewald drainageway cleanout project just north of Davenport. With a tiny stream currently flowing in the drainageway, preliminary discussions with WDFW have indicated that a JARPA application with an engineering design is needed along with shoreline and critical area exemptions from Lincoln County. Funding is available from the NE Area Engineering cluster to pay for the JARPA form completion and engineering design.

Roadside Fuel Breaks Grant

Elsa reported that Lincoln County CD had received additional funding from BLM to create more roadside fuel breaks in central Lincoln County to help protect sage grouse habitat from catastrophic fire damage. WDFW would like to create roadside fuel breaks on its land within the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, but an MOU needs to be approved between LCCD and WDFW in order to do this with roadside fuel breaks funding.

18. Jeff moved to approve an MOU with WDFW for Roadside Fuel Breaks grant projects on Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area land. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

VSP Meetings

A poster for upcoming VSP meetings in Lincoln County was taped on the blackboard. The VSP Work Group is seeking agricultural producer input on the draft VSP Work Plan. Meetings are scheduled in Harrington and Davenport on Tuesday, December 5, and in Wilbur and Odessa on Wednesday, December 6. Copies of the 4 page overview and checklist were distributed. Individual board member attendance at least one of the four VSP meetings was requested.

December Board Meeting Date

Elsa has signed up all of the District staff to attend the eastside all state VSP meeting in Spokane on December 13, which is the regular date for the December board meeting. Elsa noted that all board members are needed at the December board

meeting for staff conferences. By general consensus, the Board agreed that the December board meeting should be held on Monday, December 18.

2017 NE Area Meeting

The general consensus was that the NE Area Meeting hosted by LCCD at Memorial Hall on October 19 went well and that the catering by Longhorn Barbecue was good. Eddie commented that Vicki's comment that conservation districts and WACD need to market themselves to the general public was right on. Maybe LCCD should do a drone video in the near future to advertise itself like some of the neighboring NE Area CD's have done this past year. Val noted that the Stevens County CD Black Horse fire video had been posted on the District's Podio website for the FAC (Fire Adaptive Communities) grant. Val also noted that she had placed a photo and article in all three county newspapers describing the selection of Lincoln County as NE Area District of the Year at the NE Area meeting, and this is the first time that all 3 newspapers have published a photo and article that she has sent.

Columbia Basin Development League Video

Jeff brought a 9 minute video produced through the Columbia Basin Development League to show state and federal lawmakers the issues with declining deep irrigation well water levels in eastern Washington and the affects this has had on irrigated farmers who have been waiting more than 50 years for the second half of the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project to be installed and replace the use of well water with CBIP surface water. Deep well irrigators may have up to \$1,000,000 invested in wells up to 2,500 feet deep, and the old water pumped out of the wells is hot and has too much sodium in it, which adversely affects soil structure and chemistry. Clark Kagele, Commissioner Mark Stedman, and Tom Tebb, Director of the Office of the Columbia River were interviewed in the video. The first half of the CBIP project produces about 1 billion in agricultural products and jobs every year. The video was produced on a budget of \$50,000 and will be shown later in Olympia and in WA D.C.

Legislative Report

Eddie reported that after the recent elections, the Democrats now have a majority in the Senate. Solutions to the Hirst decision will most likely be bottled up in the House Ways and Means Committee, and there may be no capital budget approved for some time yet. Some schools across the state, such as Reardan, have been left in limbo and have not been able to make voter approved construction upgrades to the school due to the lack of an approved capital budget.

Eastern Regional Office TMDL's

Dean and Lea participated in a recent webinar from Ecology on the status of TMDLs across the state. The early technical difficulties were fixed just in time for the East Region Office (ERO) report on TMDLs in its area. In summary, ERO is not proposing any new TMDLs. Instead ERO will concentrate on writing TMDLs already initiated, address toxics in the Spokane River, and continue to implement the existing TMDLs in the Palouse River and tributaries, Walla Walla River and tributaries, Hangman Creek, Little Spokane River, Tucannon-Pataha river area, Colville River, and the Colville National Forest. The last time that Ecology attempted to run the TMDL process for

WRIA 43 about 10 years ago, the efforts were terminated due to lack of funding and due the lack of solutions on how to deal with all the intermittent streams in WRIA 43.

Funding Issues for WSU

Eddie noted that researchers at WSU have been struggling to find funding to continue their research as they would like to conduct it. Land grant universities across the nation are having issues receiving the normal Hatch grant funding. Eddie also noted that several recent hires in the College of Agriculture were for applicants that had a strong soil health background.

Soil Acidity Workshop

Elsa handed out copies of an announcement from WSU Wheat & Small Grains about an upcoming "Soil Acidity on the Palouse Workshop – Digging Deeper" that will be held on January 4th, 2018 at the Banyans on the Ridge in Pullman. The workshop will run all day and the cost for early registration is \$30 per person. Jim and Dean expressed an interest in attending the workshop.

19. Eddie moved to approve registration for interested board members and staff members to attend the soil acidity workshop in Pullman on January 4. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS Report

Ann was not able to attend the meeting but provided an email for the NRCS report. Hard copies of the email were distributed. The first deadline to sign up for EQIP 2018 funding is today, November 17, and applies to the On-Farm Energy, Seasonal High Tunnels, Air Quality, Beginning Farmer, Historically Underserved, and Sage Grouse Initiative programs. The second EQIP deadline is March 2016, 2018 for the Soil Quality, Irrigation Water Efficiency, Forest and Rangeland Degraded Plant Condition, Livestock Water, Wildlife Habitat, and Headquarters Water Quality funding pools.

WPT staff are working on CSP18 – Renewal contracts from original 2013 CSP contracts. The renewals will run for an additional 5 years. All of the Highly Erodible Land reviews in Adams and Lincoln counties met their HEL compliance levels.

Letter of Resignation

Lea has submitted her letter of resignation. She has accepted a new position as nonpoint water quality specialist in the Bellingham office of Ecology and her first day of work is scheduled for Monday, November 27. Lea will not be working with dairies but will otherwise be doing the same job that Chad Atkins does locally in the Eastern Region of Ecology. Elsa has already completed an exit interview with Lea and has been transferring some of Lea's duties to other staff members.

20. Eddie moved to accept the letter of resignation from Lea. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

The board members thanked Lea for her service to the District and in taking the initiative to obtain more training. Lea thanked the Board for allowing her the time to take additional training that was available. Elsa requested permission to start advertising soon for the Project Manager position. By general consensus, the Board approved advertising for the Project Manager position and asked Elsa to start advertising soon.

FSA Report

Sara Cossio, the new CED for Lincoln County, introduced herself to the board members and the board members introduced themselves to her. Sara grew up on a cattle farm in Montana. Sara noted that Brian Dansell had just been appointed as State Executive Director and comes from a forestry background in Stevens County.

Sara reported that FSA staff are working on ARC/PLC signups, acreage reporting, and AGI certification. Staff can complete all three items for producers when they come to the office. There will be no general CRP signup for 2018. Jeanine will be leaving her position in the Davenport FSA office and will be transferring to the loan department in the Spokane FSA office by the end of November. Aaron resigned his position earlier this fall to return back to farming. Sara doesn't know if or when these 2 positions will be replaced in the Davenport office. In addition, Paula is scheduled to retire next May. FSA staff have not heard much about the proposal to merge NRCS and FSA in the future.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Stedman was not available to give the Commissioner's Report, but he did mention some items at the cancelled meeting from November 8. Old Coulee Road as repaired will have more hilly sections than originally planned in order to save money. Any private properties that need to be purchased to rebuild the landslide damaged area of Porcupine Bay Road now need 3 different property value assessments, and this takes more time and more money. Porcupine Bay Road may not be repaired now until sometime in 2019. The construction on Miles-Creston Road should now be completed and the road should now be fully reopened.

Holiday Time Off

21. Eddie moved to give District staff the day off on November 24, the day after Thanksgiving. Jim seconded. Motion passed.

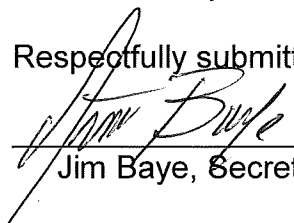
22. Eddie moved to give District staff the following days off for the Christmas and New Year holidays: December 22, December 26, December 29, and January 2. Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Items

Dean handed out copies of printouts from the No-Till Farmer website that discussed the dangers of harvesting and grazing certain forages following a hard frost along with toxicity considerations for grazing cover crops. In addition, with interest shown in a WSU Small Grains soil testing article and the Oregon State University Soil Test Interpretation Guide, copies of these documents were also made and distributed to the board members. Elsa brought in the November 2017 edition of Wheat Life to show the article on the continuing development and testing of 2 new drills that can handle high amounts of residue and thus replace the John Deere HZ and International 155 drills that are no longer being made. Dean mentioned that letter that he had written on behalf of the District to the Odessa Record about concerns on where stream flow originates in Lincoln County streams had been sent but that no response at all had yet been received back from the Odessa Record.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM. The next board meeting will be held on Monday, December 18 at 8:30 AM in the conference room in Davenport.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Baye, Secretary



Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 22 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the October 11 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #10625 to #10288, along with 8 EFT's, totaling \$47,197.82.
- 3. M/S/P to submit vouchers 4 for the 18-39-IM grant in the amount of \$4,235.48 to the Conservation Commission.
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- 22. M/S/P to give District staff the following days off for the Christmas and New Year holidays: December 22, December 26, December 29, and January 2.

