

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Lincoln County Public Works Meeting Room – Davenport, WA
Wednesday, November 12, 2025**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Vice-Chairman, Braidy Haden. Those attending the meeting in person or by Zoom were as follows: Jeff Schibel (Zoom), Jim Baye, Josh Sherwood, and Jason Echelbarger - LCCD Supervisors; Elsa Bowen, Delaini Disher, Brean Nieman, and Dean White - LCCD staff.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

- 1. Jason moved to approve the October 8, 2025 minutes as presented. Jim seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.*

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- 2. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #12888 to #12924, along with 13 EFT's, totaling \$100,016.98. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- 3. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$4,047.69 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*
- 4. Jim moved to submit voucher #2 for the 26-39-IE grant in the amount of \$1,356.32 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 5. Jim moved to submit voucher #25 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$412.57 to Adams CD. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*
- 6. Jim moved to submit voucher #2 for the Mid-Columbia Drought PP grant in the amount of \$38,253.12 to DOE. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 7. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the 26-39-NR grant in the amount of \$1,080.69 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 8. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the 26-39-AMM grant in the amount of \$430.60 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*
- 9. Jim moved to submit voucher #13 for the NE Lincoln Well Monitoring grant in the amount of \$15,819.68 to DOE. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 10. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the 26-39-IM grant in the amount of \$11,689.35 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*

- **11. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the VSP 6 grant in the amount of \$12,543.24 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **12. Jim moved to submit voucher #1 for the 26-39-PFR grant in the amount of \$1,514.80 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **13. Jim moved to submit voucher #13 for the #23-DG-11062752-163 CWPP grant in the amount of \$1,629.19 (match only) to DNR. Jason seconded. Motion passed.**
- **14. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for September 25, 2025 through October 23, 2025 be approved. The total amount owed was \$794.48. Jason seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **15. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of September 30, 2025. The total amount owed was \$115.82. 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 October 15, 2025. The total amount owed was \$235.21. Jason 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 October 31, 2025. The total amount owed was \$152.85. 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.

Elsa noted that the District's \$150,000 CD in WaFd Bank had reached maturity and would be rolled over into a money market account in the near future.

Line of Credit - A brief update was given on the proposal to obtain a line of credit from a local bank in order better fund expensive cost share projects such as Irrigation Efficiency grant projects. However, since the District was recently advanced \$400,000 from the Conservation Commission to help pay for the next large irrigation efficiency project, it has been decided that obtaining a line of credit was not needed for the immediate future.

Brean noted that the NE Lincoln County well level grant had exhausted the funding allocated for District staff tasks and that the estimated remaining \$30,611.50 in funding

is allocated for the compilation of the final grant report by Kevin Lindsey with GeoEngineers.

Josh asked about funding from the FLOURISH (Farmers Leading Our United Revolution in Soil Health) grant. Delaini noted that no funding had been available recently from the FLOURISH grant due to the Federal Government shutdown but should be available again after the shutdown has ended.

Elsa reported that an additional \$1,500 was needed from Adams CD to fund the updated 5 total projects scheduled in county for the Adams County for Lincoln County CD staff to implement. An amendment to increase the Adams CD TA (technical assistance) grant by \$1,500 for additional grant projects was needed.

- **18. Jim moved to approve a \$1,500 increase in the total amount for the Adams CD TA grant due to additional projects for District staff to complete in Adams County. Jason seconded. Motion passed.**
- **19. Jim moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Grant's report as presented. Jason seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.**

C. AGENDA

GPS Update Grant Funding

Elsa noted that a local producer had recently asked if the District had any grant funding to provide cost share to update GPS units used in agricultural tractors and other equipment. Whitman, Rock Lake and Palouse CDs had previously obtained grant funding for updating GPS equipment from the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant and NRI funds from the Conservation Commission. District staff will be watching for available GPS upgrade grants in the future.

Washington Grown Filming in Lincoln County

Delaini reported that Washington Grown had traveled to speak with Curtis Klein about the barley fields on his farm. Washington Grown then traveled to Reardan grade school several weeks ago and joined Delaini at a farm to food presentation at the second-grade class taught by Wendi Clouse. The class had already been participating in a farm to school program this fall. Delaini handed out the Washington Grown Activity Workbooks that the District picked up last year that are filled with lots of fun information, puzzles and facts about Washington farmers growing much of the food that local residents eat. The presentation was filmed by Washington Grown and will be shown in March 2026 along with presentations done by other conservation districts in local classrooms.

Conservation Easements Program

Elsa noted that a landowner north of Davenport had contacted the District and expressed interest in signing up for the conservation easement program from the Conservation Commission. The conservation easement program is only available for agricultural cropland and is not applicable for forest land or rangeland. The landowner has 160 acres of cropland and 40 acres of forested land, but only the cropland is eligible.

The signup process takes about 2 years to be completed with yearly payments negotiated and a lifetime easement applied to the land.

Cost Share Action

Copies of the Cost Share Action spreadsheet for November 12 were distributed for review. There was just one application for funding from the 26-39-PFR grant to replant conifer trees on 30 acres burned by the Crescent Road fire this summer just south of Spokane River between Reardan and Davenport for \$56,000.

20. Josh moved to approve the Cost Share Action sheet for the November 12 Board meeting as presented. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

NE Area Meeting

Elsa presented the Northeast Area District of the Year award plaque from the Conservation Commission to Lincoln County CD. The plaque frame is covered in cloth and has the photo of the feral honeybee swarm that Dean took at his house in July and later entered into the annual Conservation Commission Photo Contest for 2025 on the cloth as the background for the award. A one-page write-up from the Conservation Commission on the important activities and accomplishments completed by the District in 2025 has been saved in the minutes notebook for future reference

WACD Update

Elsa announced that the Annual WACD Meeting will be held again at the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights on December 1 through December 3 and that she had made the reservations for everyone planning to attend the Annual Meeting. Jeff noted that the Conservation Commission will be meeting on the following day, December 4th at the casino.

Jeff reported that Amy McKay, WACD President, was not able to attend the recent Southeast Area Meeting and the South Central Area Meeting and so he attended in her place. CD's in the Southeast Area are also tapping into Irrigation Efficiency grant funding. The fire within the Underwood Conservation District in the South Central Area ended up destroying 19 houses.

A resolution on CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) CRP will be addressed at the WACD Meeting. The location for the 2026 and 2027 WACD Annual Meeting will be the Skamania Lodge close to The Dalles, Oregon. Larry Cochran will be stepping down from his position as Chairman of the Conservation Commission Board.

It was noted that a tour has been set up to visit the nearby Highline Grain Growers circular train car track to unload wheat at the elevators here during the WACD Annual Meeting.

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 due to the current Federal Government shutdown.

FSA Report

There was no FSA report due to the current Federal Government shutdown.

Ag Burn Task Force and SWAC Meetings

Dean reported that he attended the annual fall Ag Burn Task Force meeting in the morning by Zoom and then attended the Lincoln County SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Committee) in person in the early afternoon in Davenport on November 5.

There were 5 presentations on proposed research projects to reduce smoke from agricultural burning at the Ag Burn meeting that ranged from improved models to use for better burn/no-burn decisions to converting straw to renewable natural gas and corn stover to bioplastics and biobased fertilizer. The Ag Burn Executive Committee will choose to fund at least one of the proposed projects for 2026. Ecology Air Quality Program staff noted the amount of ag burning across Eastern and Central Washington. Lincoln County only had 3 burn permits totaling 538 acres while Columbia County had over 10,000 acres of burn permits issued.

At the SWAC meeting, it was noted that the Lincoln County Youth Litter Crew collected 21,065 pounds of trash along 79 roads in the county and was able to recycle 5,630 of this roadside trash at the transfer station.

The biggest issue covered was the recently approved **Recycling Reform Act** passed by the state legislature this year that may have significant effects on the operation of the Lincoln County Transfer Station several miles west of Davenport. The Act creates a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) funded by large packaging companies producing a large amount of packaging used in the state. The Act also establishes a common list of materials to be recycled and will require that all towns and cities in Lincoln County and all parts of the state that currently have curbside garbage disposal to also have curbside collection for household recyclables.

Lincoln County currently has no curbside recycling in any towns but instead has large drop boxes in some towns for residents to separate and deposit their garbage on their own initiative and time. Other rural residents (like Dean) separate their own garbage from their own separated recyclables and drive in to a local city dropbox or drop off these items themselves directly at the Transfer Station. One possible effect of the Recycling Reform Act is that the curbside recycling may very well involve commingling of all recyclable materials together, and then this will involve the transfer of these commingled recyclables to a separating facility as in the Spokane area. If this happens, the Lincoln County Transfer Station may end up just baling commingled recyclables to be shipped to Spokane, and this will reduce the volume of separated recyclables handled by the transfer station quite a bit.

Miscellaneous

Brean noted that the District needs to develop a Policy for paying the costs incurred by Delaini for time and travel to attend the Ag Forestry Program out of the 26-39-IM (Implementation) grant. Delaini noted that the Ag Forestry classes for this week will be held at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane.

Request for Public Comment

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

Vice-Chairman Braidy Haden adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM

Elsa noted that there would not be a quorum of Board Members for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Wednesday, December 10. After discussion the general consensus was to move the Board meeting to Wednesday, December 17. It is important for as many Board Members to attend as possible due to the annual scheduled employee reviews at the December meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Josh Sherwood, Secretary


Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 20 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the October 8, 2025 minutes as presented.
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