

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
USDA Service Center Conference Room – Davenport, WA
Wednesday, July 8, 2026**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM by Chairman Jeff Schibel. Those attending the meeting in person or by phone were as follows: Josh Sherwood, Braidy Haden, Jason Echelbarger, and Ryan Wiater - LCCD Supervisors; Scott Noble, Conservation Commission; Mary-Ellen Early, DNR; Ashley Smith, FSA; Elsa Bowen, Delaini Disher, Brean Nieman, Elayne Hovde-Knudson, Matthew Rosman, and Dean White - LCCD staff. The June 10 Board Meeting minutes and the Treasurer's Report were displayed on the big TV screen in the conference room. Scott introduced himself and the Board Members and staff introduced themselves to Scott.

A. MINUTES: Additions / Corrections:

1. Jason moved to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes as presented. Braidy seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT / TRANSACTIONS REPORT:

- 2. Ryan moved to pay and approve vouchers #13106 to #13128, along with 14 EFT's, totaling \$113,730.80. Braidy seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- 3. Ryan moved to submit voucher #12 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$13,328.21 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*
- 4. Ryan moved to submit voucher #1 for the 26-39-TP2 (Conservation Commission / NRCS) grant in the amount of \$45,000.00 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 5. Ryan moved to submit voucher #32 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$948.16 to Adams CD. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*
- 6. Ryan moved to submit voucher #10 for the 26-39-NR grant in the amount of \$489.04 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.*
- 7. Ryan moved to submit voucher #50 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$5,787.29 to Stevens CD. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- 8. Ryan moved to submit voucher #51 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$7,212.71 to Stevens CD. Jason seconded. Motion passed.*

- **9. Ryan moved to submit voucher #12 for the 26-39-IM grant in the amount of \$5,114.79 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **10. Ryan moved to submit voucher #12 for the VSP 6 grant in the amount of \$7,485.06 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.**
- **11. Ryan moved to submit voucher #9 for the 26-39-PFR grant in the amount of \$290.31 to the Conservation Commission. Jason seconded. Motion passed.**
- **12. Ryan moved to submit voucher #2 for the 26-39-DG grant in the amount of \$10,627.25 to the Conservation Commission. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.**
- **13. Ryan moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for May 27, 2026 through June 23, 2026 be approved. The total amount owed was \$860.54. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.**
- **14. Ryan moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of June 15, 2026. The total amount owed was \$133.10. Jason 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.

Brean noted that some of the expenses on the VISA bill include orders for VSP monitoring equipment and for Soil Health soil samples that were sent to Soiltest Labs Moses Lake.

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

C. AGENDA

Special Assessment Update

The Special Assessment sheet was briefly reviewed. Elsa reminded the Board that the Special Assessment will expire in 2027 and that the District has already sent a

request to Lincoln County to start the Special Assessment renewal process in 2026. Jo reported that the County was late sending the collection fee for the 2025 Special Assessment due to personnel changes, but would now be sending the annual bill of \$13,000 for the assessment fee in the near future. The collection fee is calculated from the \$0.75 cost per parcel for the Special Assessment.

MOU with Washington State Conservation Society

Elsa announced that a new MOU with the Washington State Conservation Society had been received by the District to sign. The District has been making a \$150 contribution to the Washington State Conservation Society in recent years.

16. Josh moved to approve the new MOU with the Washington State Conservation Society. Braidy seconded. Motion passed.

17. Josh moved to approve the renewal of the \$150.00 contribution to the Washington State Conservation Society. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

Interlocal Agreement with Adams County CD

Elsa reported that Adams CD had received a new \$5,000 allocation to pay for technical assistance to implement conservation projects in Adams County. Adams CD has requested that Lincoln County CD sign an updated Interlocal Agreement to provide the technical assistance again for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.

18. Josh moved to approve an updated Interlocal Agreement with Adams County CD to provide technical assistance for projects in Adams County for \$5,000 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. Ryan seconded. Discussion was held. Elsa noted that the \$5,000 amount could be raised or lowered as needed later in the fiscal year. Motion passed.

2026 WACD Dues

Elsa announced that the District had received the annual dues request to support WACD. This year the dues request is \$3,888.89 from all 45 Conservation Districts across the state. Lincoln County CD has been using the Implementation grant to pay the WACD dues for years and is planning on using the Implementation grant to pay for it again for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. Conservation districts can donate additional funding to support WACD if they so choose. Elsa reminded Board Members that in order for a conservation district to vote at the Annual WACD Meeting in late fall, it must have already paid the annual dues request to WACD.

19. Josh moved to approve the 2026 annual dues payment to WACD. Ryan seconded. Motion passed.

FY 2027 Implementation Grant Addendum

Hard copies of the FY 2027 Implementation Grant Addendum were distributed. \$126,713.00 for the annual Implementation grant is available to all conservation districts from the Conservation Commission for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. The Implementation grant funding can be used to conduct education and outreach activities, attend training sessions and attend meetings, pay investment contributions to WACD and NACD, hold Board Supervisor elections, and promote the conservation district and the services and programs it provides. The FY 2027 Implementation Grant Addendum must be approved and signed by the Board in order for the District to receive the \$126,713.00 for the 27-39-IM grant from the Commission.

Elsa also noted that \$236,222 had been received for the Cluster Engineering grant to provide engineering assistance for projects as requested in all 5 of the NE Area conservation districts.

20. Josh moved to approve the signing of the FY 2027 Implementation Addendum for a total of \$126,713.00. Ryan seconded. Motion passed.

Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency Funding

Elsa reported that the District had received an additional \$51,272.90 from the Conservation Commission for the Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency Funding grant for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year. \$31,000 of this grant is available to provide cost share assistance to local cooperators and the rest is available to pay for technical assistance provided by Matthew for wildfire prevention and restoration projects.

Ecology Hawk Creek Watershed Inspections

Elsa reported that the Department of Ecology had conducted another round of roadside inspections within the Hawk Creek watershed north of Davenport and had identified two more sites with water quality violations that needed to be addressed. Letters have already been sent to the landowner/operator and forwarded to the District. For one of the sites, the operator has already contacted the District and requested assistance with repairing a riparian fence. The second operator was cited for having livestock along the creek and has not yet contacted the District for assistance.

Training and Field Tours

Jason and Dean attended the recent Wilke Farm Day on June 23 along the east edge of Davenport along Hwy 2.

Delaini and Brean attended the recent FLOURISH (Farmers Leading Our United Revolution in Soil Health) Field Tour held in the St. John and Colfax areas. Currently there are 30 growers participating with different projects for FLOURISH. The FLOURISH project is looking for more farmers to participate in adjacent Lincoln and Spokane counties. One of the tour sites included a sunflower and pea field that was growing surprisingly well on a dry and gravelly field. One grower is interested in implementing virtual fencing on his farm. Some of the growers have been trying the mobile reverse osmosis water treatment trailer from Spokane CD to see how well RO treated water for spraying that removes dissolved salts in hard water can increase the effectiveness of their spray water and reduce the amount of spray needed to be applied on their crop fields. Funding to support another 6 – 7 years of FLOURISH projects has not yet been secured.

VSP Update

Delaini reported that 2 new VSP water monitoring stations have been established in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife area south of Creston. The monitoring station at Wilson Creek has been removed again because the creek site has already dried up. The monitoring station at Coal Creek at Mohler Rd bridge has barely enough water now to take water monitoring measurements. The VSP Technical Panel is scheduled to attend the VSP 10 Year Report meeting for Lincoln County on August 5th. The Tech Panel will tour Lincoln County's VSP projects on October 20th. Some feedback that

Delaini has heard from the Department of Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife is that they are looking for more years of VSP monitoring data.

CRP Task Order Update

Elsa reported that the first CRP plan writing task order for \$45,000 with NRCS and the Conservation Commission has been completed with 152 plans finished. The second CRP plan writing task order will be approved on Monday and will involve another 152 plans that must be finished and delivered back to FSA by August 14.

Grant Cooperator Contracts and New Applications Update

Hard copies of the completed LCCD contracts for 2026, current LCCD contracts and current contracts in Adams County to be completed by 6/30/2027, and LCCD applications for :July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029 were compiled and distributed by Elayne. For the grant applications from Lincoln County cooperators, 16 of these are carry over applications and 29 of them are new applications. A majority of the new applications involve livestock watering facility developments primarily due to dry conditions and disappearing surface water supplies for many livestock operators across the county. Josh and Braidy noted that they would like to fill out applications to help fund the replacement of aging irrigation center pivots on their cropland.

Elayne noted that she has been working with an Adams County farmer who has been planting a cover crop mixture of warm season and pollinator plant species in a ring around the outside of his irrigated potato circles. This ring of warm season and pollinator cover crop plants has been attracting a significant amount of potato plant pests and has reduced the amount of pest damage to the potato crop and pesticide spray required on the potato circle. Elayne would like to apply for Conservation Innovation Grant funding and see if other irrigated circle operators would like to try similar warm season and pollinator plant rings around the edge of their circles to reduce pesticide damage and pesticide spraying on their circle crops.

Lincoln County CD Grant Applications Update

The Lincoln County CD grant applications update was on the back of the Grant Cooperator Contracts and New Applications Update sheet. The grants awarded to the Districts include the DOE Terry Husseman grant for \$92,000 and the DOE Hawk Creek Riparian Project for \$500,000. The District has submitted an application for the WSSRI (Washington Shrub-Steppe Restoration Initiative) Wildlife Riparian Planting grant for \$50,000.

In addition, Elsa announced that the new Direct Seed 5 grant had also been awarded to the District for \$499,991.00.

Cost Share Spreadsheet

The Cost Share Action sheet for the July 8, 2026 Board Meeting was distributed. The sheet included one payment request from the 26-39-FH grant and one payment request from the 26-39-DG grant for a total of \$16,720.00.

21. Josh moved to approve the Cost Share Spreadsheet for the July 8 Board Meeting as presented. Jason seconded. Motion passed.

WACD Report

Jeff reported that he had participated in the recent WACD partnership meeting online with the Conservation Commission. Two partnership meetings are typically held each month. The elections lawsuit against Clallam County CD for the recent Board Supervisor election is starting to get very expensive for Clallam CD. WACD is working on writing an amicus brief for this lawsuit to assist Clallam CD. An amicus brief is a legal document submitted by individuals or organizations that are not directly involved in a case. These briefs aim to provide additional information, insights, or arguments that may assist the court in its decision-making process.

The Ways and Means Committee has been working on improving the process of reviewing and approving Resolutions adopted at the yearly Area meetings that are then forwarded for review at the Annual WACD meeting held in late fall. The Committee is seeking to have the resolutions approved at the Annual Meeting in late fall be reviewed and refined starting soon after the yearly legislative session is over the next spring and finished by August/September so that there is not such a rush to make any refinements to these approved resolutions at the next Area meetings in fall. Elsa noted that this could be an issue for CD's such as Lincoln County that don't meet in August and September due to harvest and seeding.

Conservation Commission Report

Scott noted that he is planning on attending as many Board Meetings as possible to introduce himself and to meet the Board Supervisors and employees of all 5 conservation districts within the NE Area. Scott reminded the District that FY 2025 - 2026 final grant vouchers and reports are due by July 10. Scott asked when the last time that Lincoln County CD hosted a Conservation Commission meeting and tour. Dean noted that he had created a tour map and a map of the 2020 Whitney Rd fire for the Conservation Commission meeting and tour held here in Lincoln County in May 2022.

FSA Report

Ashley reported that the current highest priority for the Davenport FSA office is to receive applications to fill the position of County Committee Board Member for the Harrington/Odessa area by August 1. At least two candidates are required for the upcoming elections to fill this County Committee Board Member position. District Board Members suggested several producers in the Harrington/Odessa area that might be willing to serve as the County Committee Board Member for this position.

Ashley announced that a new employee for the Davenport FSA office from the Odessa area had been hired and will start work in the office next Monday. Elsa reported that all but 3 out of 150 CRP contract plans had been finished by District staff for the first CRP Task Order this year and that they will be given to FSA right away to process.

NRCS Report

There was no NRCS Report.

DNR Report

Mary-Ellen Early with DNR announced that her current position as Environmental Planner for the DNR may end later this year, and if so, a new Environmental Planner would be attending the District Board meetings in her place. In addition, DNR has

hired another 2 planners that will work closely with NRCS in north central Washington and in northeast Washington.

DNR has a prescribed fire grant that Lincoln County CD can apply for and that has a deadline date of July 15. The first in-person Fire Hazard and Risk Mapping Listening Session has been completed but 2 more virtual listening sessions will be held on July 16 and August 12 at 5 PM. DNR has made some changes in its cost share program applications, including a much longer application form to complete.

County Commissioners Report

Jo reported that the Lincoln County will soon begin construction updates on Duck Lake Rd that have been in the planning process for the last 6 years. Copenhagen Construction will install the culvert updates and then the county crew will do the road rebuilding that will include shaving off the tops of hills and making the road flatter. The county road crew will also be installing rumble strips on several potentially dangerous intersections including Mohler Rd and Harrington-Tokio Rd along with Waukon Rd and Hwy 231. The county road crew has already been forced to implement emergency repairs on washouts in the Odessa area caused by a severe thunderstorm event in May. The county has applied for funding to reimburse the county, but so far no outside financial aid has been able to be obtained.

The county has hired a new fleet management company to help keep track of the age and condition of its equipment. The county is behind on replacing old equipment that is up to 25 years old, but at the moment the Lincoln County cannot afford to update much of any of its old equipment that should be replaced.

Two new drop boxes for the next elections will be installed in Wilbur and Odessa. Broadband installation is progressing in the Seven Bays and Deer Meadows area, but installation work has been halted again in the Odessa area. Lincoln County has also applied for grant money to finance needed updates in the Courthouse building.

Miscellaneous

Matthew attended post fire recovery training in Okanogan several weeks ago. The CBSWC (Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition) will be holding a Water Purveyor Listening Session at the Memorial Hall Thursday, July 16 from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Jo noted that all of the towns in the county had been contacted and that representatives from most of towns were planning on attending.

Executive Session

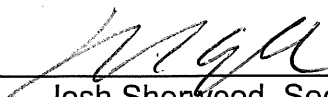
The Board went into executive session under option 1(g) of RCW 42.30.110 at 10:32 AM for an estimated 5 minutes to discuss personnel issues. The Board came back out of executive session at 10:37 AM. No motions were made as a result of the Executive Session.

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 10:38 AM. The District will not hold monthly board meetings for August or September due to harvest and fall seeding. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7.

Respectfully submitted,


Josh Sherwood, Secretary


Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 21 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #13106 to #13128, along with 14 EFT's, totaling \$113,730.80.
- 3. M/S/P to submit voucher #12 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$13,328.21 to the Conservation Commission.
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- 16. M/S/P to approve the updated MOU with the Washington State Conservation Society.
- 17. M/S/P to approve the renewal of the \$150.00 membership support for the Washington State Conservation Society.
- 18. M/S/P to approve an updated Interlocal Agreement with Adams County to provide technical assistance for projects in Adams County for \$5,000 for the 2026 – 2027 fiscal year.
- 19. M/S/P to approve the 2026 annual dues payment to WACD.
- 20. M/S/P to approve the signing of the FY 2027 Implementation Addendum for a total of \$126,713.00.