

**LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
USDA Service Center Conference Room – Davenport, WA  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM by Chairman Jeff Schibel (by Zoom). Those attending the meeting in person or by Zoom were as follows: Jim Baye and Josh Sherwood - LCCD Supervisors; Ashley Smith, FSA; Aubrey Hoxie, NRCS East Area Conservationist; Elsa Bowen, Brean Nieman, Matthew Rosman (Zoom), and Dean White - LCCD staff.

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

*1. Jim moved to approve the December 17, 2025 minutes as presented. Josh seconded. There was no public comment. Motion passed.*

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

- *2. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #12953 to #12973, along with 10 EFT's, totaling \$63,360.12 for December 16 through December 31, 2025. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- *3. Jim moved to pay and approve vouchers #12974 to #12981, along with 23 EFT's, totaling \$414,666.79 for January 1 through January 12, 2026. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Motion passed.*
- *4. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the 26-39-FH grant in the amount of \$3,299.00 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *5. Jim moved to submit voucher #4 for the 26-39-IE grant in the amount of \$412,501.35 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *6. Jim moved to submit voucher #27 for the Adams CD TA grant in the amount of \$75.60 to Adams CD. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *7. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the 26-39-NR grant in the amount of \$27.39 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *8. Jim moved to submit voucher #49 for the Cluster Engineering grant in the amount of \$2,429.25 to Stevens CD. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*
- *9. Jim moved to submit voucher #3 for the 26-39-AMM grant in the amount of \$10,949.08 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.*

- **10. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the 26-39-IM grant in the amount of \$8,554.01 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **11. Jim moved to submit voucher #6 for the VSP 6 grant in the amount of \$5,443.25 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **12. Jim moved to submit voucher #3 for the 26-39-PFR grant in the amount of \$2,035.30 to the Conservation Commission. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **13. Jim moved to submit voucher #15 for the #23-DG-11062752-163 CWPP grant in the amount of \$9,800.00 to DNR. Josh seconded. Motion passed.**
- **14. Jim moved that the Lincoln County Conservation District VISA statement for November 25, 2025 through December 23, 2025 be approved. The total amount owed was \$3,388.95. Josh seconded. Discussion was held. Brean noted that she would be attending Springbook accounting training for two days on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Spokane. Motion passed.**
- **15. Jim moved to approve the Lincoln County Conservation District Co-Energy / Pacific Pride gas card statement with a closing date of December 15, 2025. The total amount owed was \$56.73. 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 December 31, 2025. The total amount owed was \$61.44. 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.

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

## **C. AGENDA**

### **Annual Membership Renewal Requests**

Elsa announced that the CBDL (Columbia Basin Development League) had sent a membership renewal request for \$175 and that the Pacific Northwest Canola Association had sent a membership renewal request for \$250 to the District. Discussion was held. It was noted that since local producers and irrigators in the

county are active members with the CBDL and the PNW Canola Association, it would be in the District's interest to continue supporting these organizations.

**18. Josh moved to approve the renewal of the \$175 membership fee to the Columbia Basin Development League and the \$250 membership fee to the Pacific Northwest Canola Association. Jim seconded. Motion passed.**

#### **Annual Review of RCW 89.08**

Printouts of RCW 89.08 were included in the Board Member packets for the Board Members to review on an annual basis as required by law.

#### **Draft Election Ballot**

Copies of the draft 2026 Board Supervisor election ballot were distributed for review and comment. The photos and descriptions were reviewed and discussed along with some possible alternative photos and text. The bottom third of the ballot has the cutoff official ballot on both sides of paper that does not include any of the photos and information on the programs and services that the District provides to county residents. A second revised version of the ballot will be available for review and final approval at the February Board Meeting. It was noted that Walt's Mailing out of Spokane is handling the preparation and mailing of the ballots to the approximate 8,000 registered voters in Lincoln County. The mailed ballots will include a return envelope with the postage already paid.

#### **Enduris Insurance Review**

Elsa reported that Joe Davis with Enduris will not be able to attend the February 12 board meeting but has agreed to attend the March 11 meeting and provide an update on 2026 Enduris insurance benefits. In addition to the insurance presentation, Elsa reminded the Board that the Reardan FFA Debate Team would also be giving two presentations at the meeting.

#### **Grants Update**

There were no cost share applications or requests for cost share payment for the January 14 Board Meeting.

Elsa attended the Lincoln County VSP Committee last night. The VSP committee approved the District's request to allocate \$6,000 of funding every year to help pay for the cost of Washington Grown to visit a VSP project site in the field and film and show a video on TV each year that shows how the VSP program with District staff assistance is promoting conservation practices in the county.

Elsa reported that work is ongoing for a Terry Husseman grant application to remove the tires from the banks of a small stream in the Porcupine Bay area along with a second Husseman grant application to install beaver dam analogs (BDA's) below the Harman bridge along Estate Rd. Both applications will be submitted to Ecology before the February 5<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Elsa reported that the Edwall Drainage Cleanout Project and flood reduction grant application, known as the Floodplains by Design 2027-2029 Pre-Application, is also being worked on and will be submitted before the January 23, 2026 deadline.

#### **WACD Update**

Elsa asked which Board Members are planning to attend the WACD 2026 Legislative Day on February 10 so that she can make hotel reservations. Jeff is planning on attending. Josh and Jim are not planning on attending. Ryan Baye recently sent an email announcing that there will be lunch held on Legislative Day that Board Members can attend.

Jeff asked if a list of District accomplishments for 2025 would be available for Board Members to hand out again to the local legislators on Legislative Day. Elsa reported that District staff will create a 2-page front and back list of accomplishments with photos and with the email address for local legislators to request an electronic copy of the District accomplishments. Board members agreed by consensus that some of the photos from the draft elections ballot be used for the Districts Accomplishments, including the mainline replacement photo.

Jeff reported that he had listened online this morning to the Ways and Means Committee meeting earlier this meeting. Tom Salzer and Ryan Baye had testified on the Conservation District land buying bill. The prospects for this bill passing the Legislature do not look good at this time. John Knox, the new manager for the WACD PMC nursery, has reported that the PMC has a few low lying areas that are still ponded, but that there was no flooding or flooding damage to the nursery plants and digging of the plant seedlings is currently ongoing.

#### **Conservation Commission Report**

There was no Conservation Commission Report.

#### **County Commissioners Report**

There was no County Commissioners Report.

#### **NRCS Report**

Aubrey Hoxie, East Area Conservationist for WA-NRCS, attended the meeting and gave the NRCS report. Aubrey has a goal to attend at least one Board Meeting a year in all the Districts within the East Area. Aubrey noted that the recent extended Federal Government shutdown this fall and the continuing hiring freeze has it made it challenging for NRCS staff to send out program payments and process new applications in a timely manner. The EQIP and CRP easement program applications are both due tomorrow. The Regional NRCS Conservationist is speaking at the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association (PNDSA) Conference today. Most new EQIP and CSP contracts require that producers take soil tests that are paid for by the 5-year contracts. Other typical practices in the new contracts typically include direct seeding, nutrient management and pest management.

Josh noted that he is interested in signing up for an EQIP or CSP contract that would include smart sprayer implementation. Jim asked if there was any update on the request from wheat producers to have USDA recognize winter wheat as a cover crop and get credit for it due to the living roots growing in the soil during much of the year.

#### **FSA Report**

Ashley reported that staff will be attending FBA program training in February. Acreage reporting is also due in February. Patrick Bell has been appointed as the new State Executive Director for FSA in Washington State. Abby is planning on

returning from maternity leave to work in the office in March. Josh noted that he is interested in signing up for SDRP2 insurance for specialty crops including the sunflower crops that he grows. Ashley noted that no local payments have been made for SDRP2 yet and that the deadline to sign up for the program is April 30.

### **Miscellaneous**

Dean handed out printouts of the well level measurement charts for Davenport Well #1 and well BIU506. Davenport Well #1 has been measured and later had a transducer installed and downloaded between June 2018 and December 2025. The last well level measurement was taken and the transducer downloaded and removed from the well on December 23 for this most recent 7-year measurement period for Davenport Well #1 with the end of the NE Lincoln County Well Level grant. This well is a currently retired, open casing well with no pump installed that has well water levels significantly affected by the nearby and current main Well #6 for the City of Davenport, which taps water out of the same aquifer(s).

BIU506 is a private domestic well that was drilled in late July 2015 and has been measured on average every 2 weeks since it was drilled.

While well BIU506 has well water levels at a much shallower level, the well level charts for both BIU506 and Davenport Well #1 have both been showing an increased spread between the peak well level in late winter/early spring and the lowest drawdown level in mid-fall over the last 5 years.

The highest well water levels measured in both wells briefly peaked in early spring apparently due to the very large runoff event on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The lowest well levels were measured in late September to October after a long and relatively dry and hot 2025 growing season. Both wells had higher well levels between 2017 and 2019 to 2020, and this may very well be related to the more moderate and longer lasting runoff event in early spring to early summer 2017 that apparently helped to recharge the local well aquifers better than in most years. In contrast, the very large runoff event in late February 2025 flushed a very large amount of runoff water all too fast down local streams and there was not much time to allow much needed recharge in the local aquifers in many places.

Davenport Well #1 has an additional important reason for the lower drawdown in well levels for summer and fall in recent years. According to the City Superintendent, there has been an estimated 100 more water connections made to the Davenport water system since the latest well measurements were started in 2018.

### **Request for Public Comment**

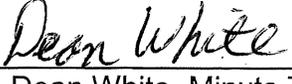
Jeff asked if there was any more public comment for the meeting. There was no public comment.

Chairman Jeff Schibel adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Josh Sherwood, Secretary

  
Dean White, Minute Taker

SUMMARY:

All 18 motions were reviewed:

- 1. M/S/P to approve the December 17, 2026 minutes as presented.
- 2. M/S/P to pay and approve vouchers #12953 to #12973, along with 10 EFT's, totaling \$63,360.12 for December 16 through December 31, 2025.
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