

**Asotin County Conservation District**  
**Thursday – April 9, 2020**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Taken by: Lacy Ausman-Ditto**  
**Prepared by: Lacy Ausman-Ditto**

Chairman Levi Luhn called the Board Meeting, held by teleconference, to order at 7:02 p.m.

Supervisors present by telephone: Jerry Hendrickson, Kelsey Crawford, Rod Hostetler, Jason Schlee.

ACCD Staff present by telephone: Megan Stewart, Brad Riehle, Jennifer Zipse, Amanda Schmidt, Zach Van Orsdel, Lacy Ausman-Ditto

**Calendars and Events:**

Tree Sale Parking Lot Pick Up– April 9<sup>th</sup> (9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and 10<sup>th</sup> (9:00 am to 4:30 pm)  
Tree sale in progress now, ~80 orders, about 55% of trees have been sold. Social distancing protocols being met, Megan and Brad both wearing masks while interacting with public. Will try to host discounted sales to get rid of extra stock. About 2000 trees left, Megan is confident we can move remaining tree stock.

**Correspondence:**

WSCC – District Digest (Formerly known as: Quick Notes) reviewed by each supervisor.  
Board reviewed Employee Update Report.

**New Business:**

**Commercial Cost-Share:**

Applications:

Hostetler JV: Pasture/hayland planting (state land). *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Hostetler JV Pasture hay land conversion as presented. **Motion Carried 1 Assigned #2020-13** Rod Hostetler abstained from the vote.*

Hostetler JV: Pasture/hayland planting. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Hostetler JV Pasture hay land conversion as presented. **Motion Carried 2 Assigned #2020-14** Rod Hostetler abstained from the vote.*

**The Chairman of the Board authorized Megan Stewart to sign cost-share applications on behalf of board members due to COVID-19 call-based meeting.**

Extension:

Brian Bishop: Cost-Share #2019-21: Extend deadline to December 31, 2020 for Farmland Conversion project. Zach presented a timeline of operations recommended by Jim Schroeder. ~ *Rod Hostetler moved and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve Brian Bishop's extension as presented. **Motion Carried 3***

• **COVID-19 Update**

- Weekly COVID-19 teleconference with WSCC to keep updated. Hopefully back to office on May 5<sup>th</sup> when governor's order expires. All employees are telecommuting except for Colleen, who is utilizing the ACCD office location. Exploring more remote options for employees, and "making it work" as much as possible. Still able to communicate with landowners and maintain most operations. Considering protective precautions for future office operations and keeping employees and the public safe.

• **WSCC Annual Plan of Work**

- Megan reviewed some of the points of the work plan and requested supervisors to take the time between now and the next board meeting to review the Annual Work Plan document.

Supervisors should let Megan know before they next meeting if they have any comments/questions.

- **End of Year Funding Opportunity**

- End of fiscal year funds, implementation grants. We can ask for money for specific items/requests. 2020 limit of \$10,000. Staff recommended request for pasture management equipment that would be beneficial for the non-commercial/small acreage planting that would include a rangeland drill, culti-packer, harrow and other equipment that can be pulled behind an ATV/UTV. Deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> to apply, equipment must be purchased and received by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Other option is a wood-chipper which would support forestry program and FIREWISE activities. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Jason Schlee Crawford seconded a motion to approve Megan proceeding to request end of year funds for pasture management equipment (#1) and forestry equipment (#2). Motion Carried 4* Specific equipment will be reviewed by board prior to purchase if funds are allocated to ACCD.

- **RFP – Design for PA 06**

- Megan will start rolling out this RFP process, and will be considering special options for drone videos and photos for contractors to be able to see the site if “stay at home order” is not lifted.

- **Weed Board Partnership**

- The Asotin County Noxious Weed Board Coordinator resigned and her last day was today. The Weed Board would like to explore the option of contracting with the Asotin County Conservation District to conduct programs as an alternative to hiring new coordinator at this time. Megan requested approval from the board to explore a potential partnership between the Asotin County Conservation District and the Asotin County Noxious Weed Board. Board members expressed interest and support for exploring the option but also identified some concerns that would need to be addressed when developing a contract between the agencies. ACCD would not have any regulatory responsibility if we were to enter into a contract. Megan requested a motion for direction from the board of supervisors. *Rod Hostetler moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Megan to explore a partnership with the Weed Board to implement their technical assistance and cost-share programs, and report back to the board. Motion Carried 5*

**NRCS Report: (Reports submitted by email, read aloud by Megan)**

Jim Schroeder Reported: Business as usual for me. We are finishing up on CSP renewal work and will have preapprovals probably next week. Don't know what to expect. Our new CART program is not working very well. Then it will be on to EQIP and CRP field checks. All Asotin County CRP offers were accepted.

Angela Williams Reported: NRCS has thus far been able to meet deadlines and deliver customer service throughout this crisis. That has been a positive during this time. I have been impressed that we are able to continue to help our customers and keep things rolling. NRCS WA has hired about 15 people in the last month and is looking to fill 15 more positions by June. While our new contract ranking tool has some flaws everyone is working very hard to ensure customers are taken care of and we will get the job done!

Tracy Hanger Reported: NRCS is looking to get going a Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program (CAMP). With the increase in new employees coming from different experiences we are looking to find some interested producers around the state that would be willing to bring a newer employee out during different times of the operating seasons to mentor them on their type of ag operation and give them a little more hands on perspective. It doesn't necessarily have to be a small grain farmer but could be someone from any portion of ag. At this point we are just trying to identify who may be interested and in what counties. Below are a couple bullet point summaries and I have attached an informational sheet about it.

- NRCS created a new field and partnership-based mentoring to give new and recently relocated field employees the opportunity to:
  - Advance their professional expertise related to:

- a. Production agriculture in their local areas
    - b. Local resource concerns
    - c. How NRCS and producers address local resource concerns
  - o Deepen their awareness of the types of challenges and decisions producers face daily
  - o Enhance their local community relationships and capacity to provide excellent customer service
- NRCS is looking for experienced, conservationist producers who love to teach others to volunteer to be mentors to new and newly relocated field employees

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business, the teleconference meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**Review of Motions:**

1. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Hostetler JV Pasture hay land conversion as presented. Rod Hostetler Abstained from the vote. **Motion Carried 1 Assigned #2020-13***
2. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Hostetler JV Pasture hay land conversion as presented. Rod Hostetler Abstained from the vote. **Motion Carried 2 Assigned #2020-14***
3. *Rod Hostetler moved and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve Brian Bishop's extension as presented. **Motion Carried 3 Extension Assigned for #2019-12***
4. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Jason Schlee Crawford seconded a motion to approve Megan proceeding to request end of year funds to purchase equipment for small acreage range planting equipment or forestry equipment, the specifics of which will be agreed upon before purchase. **Motion Carried 4***
5. *Rod Hostetler moved and Kelsey Crawford seconded a motion to approve Megan to continue to research and explore a potential partnership with the Weed Board, and report back at next meeting. **Motion Carried 5***

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
Thursday – May 7, 2020

**\*\*7:00 p.m.\*\***

  
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CHAIRMAN SIGN

07-16-20  
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DATE

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SUPERVISOR SIGN

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DATE