



Asotin County

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Board Meeting

Minutes taken and prepared by: Jennifer Zipse

6:01 p.m.: Chairman, Levi Luhn called the Board meeting to order.

Supervisors present: Jerry Hendrickson, Jason Schlee, Rod Hostetler, Levi Luhn

ACCD Staff present: Brad Riehle, Jennifer Zipse, Tony Monzingo, Megan Stewart

Public Present via Phone: Mitch Ruchert (NRCS)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 6, 2023, board meeting was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2023, board meeting. **Motion Carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Checks: June #17902 to #17957 and #2179 to #2183 and 9 EFT payments. Totaling \$384,865.43 were reviewed. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve checks and EFT payments for June totaling \$384,865.43. **Motion Carried.**

Board Supervisors reviewed the Transaction Journal, Treasurer's Report, Accounts Payable, Compensated Absences, Outstanding Voucher Status, and District Budget.

ACCD REPORTS

- Outstanding Cost-Share was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.
 - Currently only 3 projects on the list for FY23-24, more projects are in the planning process.
- The Project Status Report was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Employee update reports were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Employee schedule was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.
 - Cougar Creek Fish Passage Barrier construction is underway.

CORRESPONDENCE

WSCC – District Digest was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

- The forest health grant has been written and is awaiting a final review on the budget plan. The grant will be submitted very soon.
- ACCD did submit the Sustainable Farms and Fields grant application before SCC paused the applications process.

NRCS REPORT

Mitch Ruchert – CRP status reviews have begun for Asotin and Garfield Counties, Andres (Forester) will be leaving NRCS. The new soil conservationist will start their job in September; also has a forestry background.

OLD BUSINESS

Monitoring Specialist Position Description

The Board reviewed the position description and the new changes. The monitoring specialist will be monitoring critical areas for reporting for VSP. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the Monitoring Specialist Position Description. **Motion Carried.**

Advertise Job Openings – Monitoring Specialist Position & Resource Technician

The Board does see a need for the monitoring specialist position and the resource technician and has confidence that the VSP funding will continue to support the position. The resource technician will continue to work on the Bighorn Sheep Health Program and small acreage program. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve advertising for the monitoring specialist and resource technician positions. **Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

WCC Crew Agreement 2023-24 Crew Year

ACCD's current and future projects will be able to maintain workloads for the crew. The crew will also continue to help with noxious weed management. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the WCC Crew Agreement for the 2023-24 crew year. **Motion Carried.**

NRI Project Evaluation & Ranking Form

Cooperators/landowners who have been on previous NRI manure management lists have expired CNMPs. Roofing systems on established manure management containment systems is a possibility for the NRI funds. NRCS may have a new program to help update the CNMP plans on a fast tract timeline. Staff will follow up on details for the NRCS program and inquire if CNMPs are required to implement manure management systems with WSCC funds or if a simplified nutrient management plan would be sufficient.

Manure Spreader & Trommel Rental Agreement

The Board reviewed the rental agreement. The agreement has also been reviewed by Enduris (ACCD's insurance company). Lessee should have a liability policy for renting the equipment. The rental rate should be feasible for the lessee; may increase at a later date if necessary. There will be a checklist for the lease to review and sign prior to operating the equipment. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the manure spreader and trommel rental agreement. **Motion Carried.**

Gerald & Betty Halsey JV: CREP CN 11019 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan

The inspection report and maintenance plan were reviewed. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve Gerald & Betty Halsey JV's CREP CN 11019 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan. **Motion Carried.**

Gerald & Betty Halsey JV: CREP CN 11020 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan

The inspection report and maintenance plan were reviewed. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve Gerald & Betty Halsey JV's CREP CN 11020 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan. **Motion Carried.**

Jerry & Jenette Vantrease: CREP CN 270 Final Report – Mill Creek

The final report was reviewed by the Board. This CREP contract will not be re-enrolled.

Schiebe Farms – Couse Creek Riparian Planting

The Board discussed the planting project plan.

Schiebe Farms – Montgomery Gulch Riparian Planting

The Board discussed the planting project plan. Upland tree planting practice may better fit the goals of the project.

Nick Egland – 2023-12 Water Development

Currently, there is not efficient water for cattle on rangeland. A well and new storage tank would resolve water quality issues. This project will be presented to the VSP workgroup to request VSP capital funds.

Rick Waltari – 2023-13 Pasture Planting

The landowner seeded the pasture on his own post flooding that was caused by the Dry Gulch Fire. The seeding failed and is now requesting assistance and cost-share.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan – GeoEngineers has been on site for the Cougar Creek fish passage. We have had some issues with the onsite conditions and the engineers are running calculations to determine if adjustments are needed to ensure scour requirements are met. This may result in a change order, but we will know more tomorrow (Friday). There have also been pump issues that have delayed the project slightly but hope that issue has been resolved.

Brad – Asotin Co. Commissioners Meeting – August 21st to discuss the future of Headgate Park.

Megan – ACCD is hosting the Conservation Commission Meeting on September 20th. The Board is highly encouraged to attend. More information will be sent out soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm by Chairman, Levi Luhn.


Review of Motions

1. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2023, board meeting. **Motion Carried.**
2. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve checks and EFT payments for June totaling \$384,865.43. **Motion Carried.**
3. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the Monitoring Specialist Position Description. **Motion Carried.**

4. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve advertising for the monitoring specialist and resource technician positions. **Motion Carried.**
5. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the WCC Crew Agreement for the 2023-24 crew year. **Motion Carried.**
6. Rod Hostetler moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve the manure spreader and trommel rental agreement. **Motion Carried.**
7. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve Gerald & Betty Halsey JV's CREP CN 11019 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan. **Motion Carried.**
8. Jerry Hendrickson moved to approve, and Jason Schlee seconded the motion to approve Gerald & Betty Halsey JV's CREP CN 11020 Inspection Report & Maintenance Plan. **Motion Carried.**


NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, September 7, 2023
6:00 p.m.**



CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE

9/7/23
DATE



SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE

9-7-23
DATE