



**Grant County Conservation District
Meeting Minutes**

November 10, 2020 – 1 PM

Teleconference due to COVID-19 Stay at Home Order

Attendance:

Supervisors – Dave Stadelman (Chair), John Preston, Glenn Burkholder

Staff – Lyle Stoltman, Doug Allen, Harold Crose, Elliott DeLong (Recorder)

Agencies – Mike Baden (WSSC), Erin Kaczmarczyk (NRCS)

Guests – Daniel Dormaier

Call to Order and Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm

Public Input:

No public input.

Approval of October 13, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

There were no suggested changes or additions to the previous meeting's minutes. *Motion by J. Preston to accept the October 13, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.*

Approval of November 10, 2020 Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by E. DeLong – Reviewed monies owed or owing and current grants. Financial topics included; Burn permits, Lozier Foundation funds received, grant funding, balances, DOE grant, EPA grant, cost share allocations, Soil health pass-through money, implementation grant, livestock funding, NRCS (CRP & NWQI).

Delong went on to report about employee sick and annual leave, burn permits, and reimbursements from the WSSC.

Grant County checks# 10035-10068 totaling \$43,309.18. Payroll checks #10038-10043 totaled \$8,517.86 and #10051-10058 totaled \$15,374.78.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the November 2020 financial report, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.



Agency Reports:

NRCS – Kaczmarczyk - NRCS office in Phased opening – appointment only with social distancing. FSA office under the same phased opening conditions. Regional Conservation position filled in Ephrata in roughly February. CRP and other programs successful with the district assistance by Dinah Gadberry and D. Allen. CSP will look very different and more tailor to the Pacific Northwest. FSA has small issues with gross adjusted income form. FSA plans however can be delayed. Staffing and budgeting is directly tied to online registration. Continuing of CTA program, mostly focusing on Forestry in Central Washington.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Baden- The budget is not going to a legislative session in 2020, however here will be additional IM funding. The amount depends on the Capital and Operational budget decide on in Olympia. Additional funding may be available for NRI as well at some future point. Elections need to be further discussed to outline the bigger picture of all conservation elections. There will be an election forum with Bill Eller. A resolution for the district election needs to be developed beforehand, with an announcement going out to the public and a second announcement going out 14 days later. This is a new requirement and ensures transparency throughout the elections process. Election will look different going forward, not just due to coronavirus. With Coronavirus it is assumed all districts are following the CDC social distancing guidelines during operation.

Old Business:

Building update- Crose – Building bids and permits are expected in Early 2021 but otherwise there is no real update.

Well Monitoring Project Update- Crose- Royal Slope sampling is on hold until further notice, however it is expected that Quincy sampling will occur in spring 2021. Still working with Washington Department of Agriculture and are closing in on the 12 well in the Quincy Area.

VSP Quarterly Update- Crose – Five-year Report due in December. The final template is out with Crose is work to get the report complete with Deanna Elliott and can provide a more in-depth overview at the December Supervisor’s meeting if needed.

RCPP- Crose- Currently 45 producers and entities meet every Tuesday morning to narrow down the 972 for the 33-million-dollar project. Roughly 11,000 acres and 35 deep wells should be taken off line when the first part of this project is complete. The project application is due end of November and there will likely be changes before the final application is submitted.

NACD – Allen - Training with Dinah Gadberry continues to go well. She assisted in CRP earlier in the year and showed good initiative during the task and will see more when an additional round of CRP is done in March-June of 2021 with NCRs in Ephrata. Will continue to do terracing assistance for the EQIP program.

NWQI -Allen – Work has started the NWQI for Lower Crab Creek. D. Elliott is providing the mapping required for the project. Completion of the NWQI is set for December 2021, little over a year away.

WDFW – Baden/ Crose – Submissions of comments period ended October 30th. Decision will be made somewhere during the next Commission Meeting in December or Later.



New Business:

Foster Creek Agreement – Foster Creek Conservation District reached out to see if the conservation district might be willing to use the drone to fly a portion of the area burned in 2020. The project could be beneficial to get some time for Roos to use the conservation district's drone. The agreement would cover cost and rates for John Roos's time.

Motion by G. Burkholder to initial agreement with Foster Creek CD for use of the drone and John Roos, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Annual Meeting – Registration for the Annual meeting has gone out. It will be virtual this year with \$50 per person or \$150 per district. Dates are set for November 30th – December 2nd. A schedule should be email out soon.

Elections- Election date needs to be set as well as developing a resolution state how the the district will conduct an election. If mail in ballots are needed there are option on professional printing or not professional depending on what the district desires. The voter rolls for eligible voters can be obtain from the Grant County and Adams County Auditors at any date. A notice of Election details needs to go out with a follow-up 14 days after.

DOE Burn Delegation – DOE would like to know if the district would like to continue being the permitting authority for Burn permits in Grant County. A resolution would need to be sent to DOE by the end of November.

Motion by J. Preston to continue as the burn permit issuing authority for Grant County, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Blowing Dirt in Old Quincy Stockyard- Old Quincy Stockyard is now owned by a local auto dealer (Ramirez) from Quincy. Currently a neighbor of the stockyard as threatened lawsuit against the owner for excessive blowing dust. While the owner has made some attempts to address the issues but this may have turned up an additional issue with water access. This maybe something that the owner continues to address with the conservation district or even move to DOE. Could also be a technical assistance in the future.

New Feed Yard- New feed yard possibly going in at the RD U and Wheeler junction. Roughly 150 Acres and expected to be 4,500 cows. The proposed owner has looked into a feed lot in Grant County before however, a new plan would need to be developed for the newer feedlot. The plan would need to address dust, odor, nutrient and runoff control particularly given the topographic feature in the proposed area.

RG Dairy Certification – RG dairy is located off Rd K, old Avala Dairy. RG Dairy is waiting a certification form Washington Department of Agriculture. Certification was delayed due to only having the lagoon 90% fenced. Hoping that certification can occur soon and will provide an update in December.

Adjournment- *Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.*

Regular session was adjourned at 2:29 pm.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

1. Motion by J. Preston to accept the October 13, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.
2. Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the November 2020 financial report, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.
3. Motion by G. Burkholder to initial agreement with Foster Creek CD for use of the drone and John Roos, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.
4. Motion by J. Preston to continue as the burn permit issuing authority for Grant County, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.
5. Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.