



**Grant County Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM
In Person and Teleconference – Phase 3**

Attendance:

Supervisors – Dave Stadelman (Chair), John Preston, Richard Leitz, Glenn Burkholder, Dan Roseburg

Staff – Marie Lotz, Lyle Stoltman, Kristina Ribellia, Elliott DeLong (Recorder)

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

Guest – None

Call to Order and Introductions:

D. Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Input:

No public input.

Approval of June 8, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

There weren't any suggested changes or additions to the previous meeting's minutes.

Motion by D. Roseburg by to accept the June 8th, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Approval of July 13, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

There weren't any suggested changes or additions to the previous meeting's minutes.

Motion by D. Roseburg to accept the July 13th, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.

Approval of August 10, 2021 Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by M. Lotz – Reviewed monies owed or owing and current grants. Financial topics included; Burn permits, funds received, grant funding and donations, OGWRP and Microsoft Donation balances, DOE, WSSC, EPA and NACD grant, cost share allocations, pass-through money, implementation grant, livestock funding, NRCS, RCPP and DOE Burn Applications.

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

Motion by R. Lietz to accept the August 10th, 2021 financial report, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries. Grant County checks# 10369 - 10407 totaling \$60,509.72. Payroll checks #10373-10378 totaled \$9,196.46 and #10389-10396 totaled \$16,209.84 included in the above amount.

Agency Reports:

NRCS– Kaczmarczyk /Shero - NRCS remains able to staff offices up to the 50% level and federal employees, visitors, and contractors regardless of vaccination status and wearing masks inside the buildings. Masked visitors are allowed by appointments into the buildings as capacity allows. Additional task orders with GCCD for items such as CRP, CSP status reviews, field measurements and training have been signed. Big Bend Team (Ephrata & Ellensburg) now has 31 obligated, approved, and pre-approved 2021 contracts and applications. Funding is never guaranteed until the contract is obligated. No new information on the 2022 Local Working Group meeting at this time. This has become more important

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over the past year and plays a major role in metrics used to determine budget and staffing levels. As a reminder, please continue to work with local NRCS staff to provide partner projects that can be captured as CTA. These projects can be completed (since 10/1), planned or partially completed. CTA helps to fund our task orders which helps NRCS get conservation on the ground and is a necessary component to WA's business model. New drought signups are available until August 19, 2021. For clarification or questions please contact the District Conservationist. Several vacancies within the Ephrata office still exist though some have been filled, including Austin Shero as the Area Conservationist.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSSC)–Baden– The WSSC has had a joint committee on conservation district elections. The draft has currently been out for comment which ends 8/18/2021. The commission came to a number of different options some of which will be covered on the commission webinar on August 11,2021 at 11AM. Options include extended terms, changes to the ballot options and similar options. Similarly, the conservation commission's 5-year plan has been drafted and is out for comment until 8/15/2021, comments are welcome. WSSC has made revisions to the Cultural Resources to better align with the new gubernatorial order. The changes are minor and will be out for comment until 9/1/2021.

Reminder from the commission that budgets should align with the activity, not a concern at GCCD, but something the commission would like to reiterate. The commission is also moving to a biannual report to highlight the conservation districts. Current reports due 9/24/2021 and will occur every two-years going out. This is due to changes instituted during COVID-19 and will be detailed in a webinar sometime in the near future. WSSC will continue to fund task orders with NRCS including some fire mitigation like the fire hazard mitigation funding GCCD recently received.

Old Business:

Building Update- Lotz – The building continues to progress despite the legal issues between the contractors. GCCD and Grant County Fire #5 are receiving weekly reports of progress. The building should be completed soon, though no exact date has been given.

Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC) – Ribellia – The Moses Lake Watershed Council continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Development continues on the plan for the activities covered under the BOR WaterSMART Grant the conservation district received. The plan includes data from Moses Lake Rehabilitation and Irrigation District, outreach and watershed planning. GCCD is also planning to apply for a Department of Ecology Non-point Source grant to address septic issues in the vicinity of Moses Lake. The grant is due to Department of Ecology 10/12/2021 and will be worked on by GCCD staff. In addition to the WaterSMART grant, GCCD recently brought Ronald Scerbicke as a watershed planner working with the watershed council and Odessa groundwater project.

VSP – **Lotz** – Grant County -GCCD and Grant County have come to an agreement with the new Grant County VSP Contract. The terms are basically the same as the previous contract and has been accepted by the conservation district and the county, only the Commission needs to finalize the agreement. This contract will focus on a more targeted approach to quantify and identify the critical areas to meet requests and recommendations of the state technical panel. The targeted approach will focus on identification of critical areas via GIS Mapping.



Adams County – Adams County VSP was returned to Adams County. Whether Adams County can handle the workload is not known with 35 plans currently awaiting completion. A contract addressing incomplete VSP, at a per-plan rate, between Adams County and GCCD maybe developed should Adams County need assistance. GCCD will still be present for the Adams County 2-year plan technical panel and address the issues that may arise.

OGWRP Update–Ribellia – The Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project continues to meet weekly for both the steering committees. These meeting will likely continue for the foreseeable future. Additionally, GCCD is working with the Willamette Partnership and the Farmer Conservation Alliance. Currently the partnership is working on the Preliminary Investigative Feasibility Report PIFR (federal funding) on behalf of the OGWRP. Completion of the PIFR could lead to NRCS handling about 75% of the cost for construction and 100% for engineering. GCCD also received funding through the state capital budget, as well as some donations, to assist with bringing NRCS programs to the OGWRP. At completion the project will cover 87,000 acres, including ~7 pumping stations. Currently 1 pump station is complete, 3 laterals are in development (30% completion) and all engineering costs have been covered by the growers. Once the PIFR is complete, Roylene Comes At Night will consider recommending the project for PL-566 watershed planning.

New Business:

22-49-NRI Addendum Approval – Stoltman – The Addendum for the 78,666 Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) grant. There are several projects on the list and NRI funds will continue to fund the remaining projects. The funding covers two projects both for irrigation improvements. The first for Fekkes Dairy and the second is for Christianson. Funds equate to \$19,666 for technical assistance and 59,000 for the projects. Should either project fall through, the next on the list will be offered funds. All projects under NRI would need to be completed by June 30, 2022.

Motion by J. Preston to accept WSCC 22-49-NRI Addendums as presented, seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries.

Craghead Cost Share Approval – Stoltman – GCCD was contacted by James Craghead via NRCS regarding irrigation improvements and erosion control on 2.5 acres of marginal pasture. The property is located at the end of an irrigation run and gets remaining excess water, which flows across the pasture into a return ditch. The overflow has had significant impact on the erosion in the pasture and the goal is to bury a pipe (530 ft) to reduce the erosion across the pasture. In addition to the conversion from rill to sprinkler and reseeding would be included in the erosion control. Cost share would equate to \$12,000 from GCCD funds for the project. Completion date would be no later than June, 30 2022.

Motion by R. Lietz to approve the Craighead Irrigation cost share for 12,000, seconded by J Preston, motion carries.

Adjournment-

Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by D. Roseburg, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

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