



**Grant County Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2021 – 7:00 PM  
In Person and Teleconference – Phase 3  
1107 S Juniper Dr, Moses Lake, WA 98837**

**Attendance:**

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

**Staff** – Marie Lotz, Lyle Stoltman, Harold Crose, Elliott DeLong (Recorder)

**Agencies** –Mike Baden (WSCC), Carol Smith (WSCC)

**Guest** – None

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

Stadelman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**Public Input:**

No public input.

**Approval of April 13, 2021 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:**

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

*Motion by J. Preston to accept the April 13th, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.*

**Approval of May 11, 2021 Monthly Financial Reports:**

Presented by Manager Lotz – Reviewed monies owed or owing and current grants. Financial topics included; Burn permits, Lazier Foundation funds received, grant funding, balances, DOE grant, EPA 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 WSCC.

*Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 financial report, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.* Grant County checks# 10256-10293 totaling \$54,194.35. Payroll checks #10260-10266 totaled \$10,706.59 and #10276-10284 totaled \$17,708.00 included in the above amount.



### **Agency Reports:**

**NRCS– Lotz** - The NRCS office remain closed to the public however, anyone wishing to talk in person will need to make appointments, fill out a health survey, and be escorted and wear a mask during the visit. RCPP pre-approvals are still being processed, delayed due to software issues but hope to have a resolution soon. CSP applications that will move forward to be assessed and ranked by June 4<sup>th</sup>. EQIP Initial pre-approvals for state pool EQIP funds total roughly 12 plans in Grant County ranging from Wildlife to Air Quality. As of 2022 there will be no state fund pools for range/pasture resource concerns. These resource concerns were given back to the Local Working Groups to fund. The 2022 Local Working Group meeting has not been scheduled. Core members decided to hold off on meeting until this fall when more information is known about the outcome of 2021 fiscal year. In addition, more information is needed from the state Technical Advisory Committee to better inform the local working group of upcoming changes still being proposed and made. Staffing Update: Alex Reyes - left 3/28, John Larsen, remaining Ephrata but will be leaving 6/22. Currently advertised are a Civil Engineering Technician (Ephrata), Soil Conservationist (Ephrata, Ellensburg) with a tentative job offer accepted by applicant 5/6/21 for Ephrata.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)–Baden/Smith** – The budget has been certified by the state and the 15% cut for 2021 was absorbed by the commission. The 2022 budget was not cut significantly but otherwise the budget remains mostly unchanged. There is additional funding increased the Implementation grants and has been incorporated into the capital budget, so it was not likely a one-time increase. A similar situation occurred with the ORCA funding; however, some restrictions have been removed of specific uses allowing for additional flexibility. Wildfire mitigation has brought additional funding into the Conservation Commission which will be distributed to the districts. NRI remains unchanged despite the proposed increase, an increase will likely still require additional support from project queues. NRI has seen a change in project allocation, as districts have more flexibility in moving from based on projects instead of back to the commission. Will be beneficial as GCCD has roughly \$420,00 and 8 projects on the NRI list. Grant County Conservation has a Schedule 22 and Annual Plan due by May 30<sup>th</sup>, while projects and grants should be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business:**

**Building update- Lotz** – The ground breaking ceremony for the new office occurred April 19<sup>th</sup>. GCCD was represented by M. Lotz, J. Preston, D. Stadelman and H. Crose, additionally Grant County Fire District 5 board members and staff were present. The ceremony was publicized in the Columbia Basin Herald.

**Moses Lake Watershed Council (MLWC)** – Crose –The Moses Lake Watershed Council continues to meet remotely each month. GCCD, DOE, WDFW, DNR and DOE are working together to iron out the permitting process for an emerging technology that could be used for algae control. The MLWC is also looking for and receiving senatorial support, meeting with Dan Newhouse looking for support from the lake health through the infrastructure programs. The MLWC has developed and will be deploying a new website designed by Kristina Ribellia. The website will provide information and details on the project the watershed council is currently doing. Otherwise, the watershed council continues to address issues as they occur on the lake.



**DOE & DOH Well Sampling** – Crose – Department of Health and Department of Ecology have agreement with the Conservation district. Department of Health is looking at wells in the Quincy area. The wells are being monitored for Dacthal, which is generally associated with onion production. The first round of the sampling has been completed, while the second is set for early fall. An additional Bureau of Reclamation well may be added to the sampling set. Department of Ecology has also asked for GCCD to sample well on the Royal Slope area. This particular agreement will be in place soon.

**VSP – Lotz – Adams County** – Adams VSP report is in progress and being input by Lotz. Some data was lost and had to be recovered due to an issue with multi-person input. The process is affected by the limitation of the template, much like the Grant County 5-year report was. The Adams County five-year report should be completed by May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There is no indication that the County may renew the contract with GCCD-Lotz will work with the County.

Grant County VSP continues. The letter of acceptance for the five-year report has been received by GCCD. Damien Hooper has indicated that the county will more than likely renew the contract with GCCD once the commission has everything setup.

**CRP-** Lotz/ DeLong- Dinah Gadberry, Doug Allen and E. DeLong are working on a task order from the Commission to assist in the NRCS CRP contract reviews. The workload is estimated based on the difference in the fiscal years between state and federal forms. A lot of contracts are on the table with the small number of staff but it is likely much of the contract will be done by the end of June. Increases in CRP contact might occur due to increases in rental rates and splits in contracts to SAFE acres. Additional acreage waivers and other changes are unlikely to be address until the next farm bill is presented.

**OGWRP Update**–Crose – Removal of several deep wells from Odessa Aquifer to Columbia River Water continues despite the hold up. The Proposal was submitted, scored but GCCD did not receive the RCPP grant due to the nature of the project and matched funding. The nature of the project is a public works and as such needs watershed paperwork which will be addressed by the East Columbia Irrigation District. Funding match was not sufficient for the currently budget however, funding has changed since submission. These include state funding, Private NGO funding and other sources. Both of these will be addressed when the project is resubmitted. The project has not been significantly delayed with construction started roughly fall 2022, water within a year's time after (2023).

#### **New Business:**

**WSSC Soil Health Addendum 21-29-SO Approval** – Lotz – Washington Department of Agriculture has partner with Washington State Conservation Commission and Washington State University for a 5-county soil sampling project. The DOH is looking for 40 samples in Grant County. GCCD was asked to providing assistance in gathering samples by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. GCCD staff, L. Stoltman, John Roos and E. DeLong, would be assisting DOH staff and WSU graduate students in sampling protocols and taking samples. Soil health will look at the samples and likely include data from other sources dating back a much as 30 years.

*Motion by R. Leitz to accept WSSC Soil Health Addendum 21-29-SO as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.*



**Approval of Schedule 22** – Lotz – The Schedule 22 was completed prior to the meeting by D. Stadelman, J. Preston with the assistance of M. Lotz and E. DeLong. The Schedule 22 showed that all the district requirements have been met without comment from the supervisors involved.

*Motion by G. Burkholder to accept Schedule 22 as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.*

**Approval of Annual Plan of Work** – Lotz – Grant County Conservation District currently has a number of grants through both federal and state sources. DOE Algae Control, DOE RCPP assistance, DOA Sampling, Implementation (IM), Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), NACD Technical Assistance, VSP for Grant and Adams County and a small number of others. Lotz also covered staffing concerns, election functions, District structure and fiscal year 2021.

*Motion by J. Preston to accept Annual Plan of Work as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.*

**Cost Share Update** - Stoltman – Currently the GCCD cost share list has 5 projects going. 1 complete, 1 outstanding, 1 Orca-related project and 2 Adams VSP projects, all of which are due June 30, 2021. Additionally, the NRI cost share list has 8 projects on the list and roughly \$420,000 value.

**Dwain Forester Cost Share Approval** – Stoltman – Dwain Forester is interested in burying an open ditch that runs through his property. The property is formally a dairy and at some points during the year blockage of the ditch resulting in overflow that flows through the property. The overflow drains into Sand Hollow. The overflow is highly erosive and flows over high nutrient areas. Forester currently has enough pipe for the project. The piping purchased is all 15" 125 PSI for a gravity fed pipeline. The cost share would cover the cost of burying the pipe, which cost \$14-15 per foot.

*Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Forester drainpipe installation cost share pending engineering completion in the amount of \$12,000, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.*

**Trout lodge Cost Share Approval** – Stoltman – Trout lodge is looking for cost share on a 34 ft barrel composter produced by ECODrum. Trout lodge is looking to use the composter to address mortality and nutrient loads by composting the material and preventing it from entering the waterway. The composter would help to move those nutrients from the lake to other areas where they could be used in a beneficial manner. The composter would cost approximately \$34,000 and GCCD would cost share half. An understanding between GCCD and Trout lodge that the composter would be open for tours would also need to be reached. Cost share would start for the 2022 fiscal year.

*Motion by G. Burkholder to approve Trout lodge composter cost share in the amount of \$17,000, seconded by J. Preston, motion carries.*

**WACD District Survey Results** – Lotz – In April 2021, Washington Association of Conservation District reached out to Conservation Districts in Washington to look at benefits provided for staff. Review of the surveyed conservation district that responded to the survey including GCCD. The current benefits provided by GCCD have been in place for a number of years. It maybe advisable to revisit the benefit packages provided to the district staff in the future to address changes.



**Freedom of Information Request – Lotz** – Currently a Freedom of Information Act has been made for the district. The request originates from the lawyers of Heather Killinger, the former outreach educator at GCCD. Request centers around some accountability with the accident on 2018. The request will be completed no later than May 17<sup>th</sup> 2021.

**District, WDFW and County Mitigation – Crose** – Request for mitigation by the county for land that are moved from production agriculture to another source. Currently mitigation plans are developed for the Quincy Solar, and Voice Pit mitigation. The acreage is intended to be met at a one-to-one ratio. The agreements will provision that the mitigation can be used along the Crab Creek Corridor and other similar areas. These agreements would take the place of conservation easements, which the district is not completely setup for, but may visit in the future. Crose will continue the final portion of the above agreements for completion for presentation of the agreement in June.

**Adjournment-**

Motion by R. Leitz to adjourn. Seconded by J. Preston, motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.

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Chair Approval

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Recorder Signature

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Date

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Date

**Summary of Motions:**

Motion by J. Preston by to accept the April 13th, 2021 minutes as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the May 11th, 2021 financial report, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. Grant County checks# 10256-10293 totaling \$54,194.35. Payroll checks #10260-10266 totaled \$10,706.59 and #10276-10284 totaled \$17,708.00 included in the above amount.

Motion by R. Leitz to accept WSCC Soil Health Addendum 21-29-SO as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept Schedule 22 as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by J. Preston to accept Annual Plan of Work as presented, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Motion by R. Leitz to approve the Forester drainpipe installation cost share pending engineering completion in the amount of \$12,000, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

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