



**Grant County Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
December 8th, 2020 - 1 PM
Teleconference due to COVID-19 Stay at Home Order**

Attendance:

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

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

Agencies – Erin Kaczmarczyk, (NRCS)

Guests – None

Call to Order and Introductions:

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm

Public Input:

No public input.

Approval of November 10, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

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

Motion J. Preston by to accept the November 10th, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Approval of December 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 WSCC.

Checks #10069-10103 dated November 24, 2020 to December 8, 2020 were totaling \$56,722.44. Payroll checks #10069-10074 totaling \$ 7,949.81 and #10086-10096 totaling \$17,127.28 included in the above number.

Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the December 2020 financial report, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Agency Reports:

NRCS – Kaczmarczyk –Reducing in hours and accessibility due to COVID-19 state phases. Additionally, funding for new task orders has been put on hold until further notice, in response to limited access and COVID impacts. 8 CSP concerns have been highlighted that have impact on the application process. 13 applicants were submitted and zero received federal funding. More information on EQIP and WaterSMART to come. The state advisory meeting will be held via teleconference on January 7, 2021.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – None



Old Business:

Building Update- Crose – Zoning Permit for the Fire District’s apparatus has been approved by Damien Hooper at Grant County. The actual permit for the building has not however been approved at this point.

Grant County VSP Quarterly Update- Crose - Grant County VSP Five Year Report meeting set for tomorrow December 9th for report that is due on December 14. Currently the 5 yr. report totals 429 pages and can be provided to the board at their request after the meeting tomorrow. Meeting also planned with the County Commissioners to see the report. Most importantly all goals have been met and exceeded for this point in the VSP process. The numbers are good but could use more range land monitoring to keep pace with future goals. Information from NRCs on the Royal Slope fire activity could be useful in terms of monitoring range land recovery. NRCS mentioned that recovery looks good but extended monitoring is contingent on funding which can be limited, given the circumstances. GCCD may have the ability to look more into monitoring at a later date depending on availability of staff and funding.

RCPP- Crose –Odessa RCPP Plan was submitted on November 30. Project starts at 10 million of an estimated total cost of 300 million for the project. Hope is to develop the plan into a larger encompassing watershed plan incorporating efforts the GCCD is already doing. Overall, the project will take 22 farms of deep well irrigation and on to Columbia River water through the Laterals and other lines. The Odessa project is a good one and there should be an answer by April of 2021 and the project should start fall 2021.

WACD – Crose/Preston – Low Supervisor turnout with only 56 supervisors out of 400 plus. A number of different topics were addressed with focus on the elections and term length. Elections coverage similar to what has been discussed in our previous board meetings. Term length changes have been considered to adapt the by-laws to allow exception to term length for the vice president and president’s term given the circumstances of 2020. Additional news of the 2021 convention and cost being transferred to Tacoma for 2021. Crose elected back as our Regional Representative for an additional 3-year term. WACD also presented Preston and Burkholder with service awards for 45 yrs. and 15 yrs. of service, respectively.

New Business:

Elections Resolution- Stoltman – Resolution 120820-4 has been looked and revised by Marie Lotz (GCCD) and Mike Baden (WSCC). Discussion of in-person polling vs mail in ballots had led to the decision to move to mail-in ballots only due to the COVID-19 restrictions as advised by Mike Baden. Development of the resolution was based on the election resolution template provided by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Motion by J. Preston to accept Resolution 120820-4, seconded by seconded by G. Burkholder, Motion Carries



Rates and Charges- DeLong-Discussion about rates and charges and possible investment and management options with Grant County. Discussion would be better served by moving the discussion to January Meeting when Marie Lotz is available to speak about it. However, D. Stadelman suggest looking outside the Grant County Treasurer’s office for additional management options.

2021 legislative Session – Crose/Preston -Legislative Session will likely be virtual if it occurs. Senate will meet on a limited basis and the Washington State House will meet virtually until further notice as the campus in Olympia is closed. Legislation will likely have a reduced number of bills passed.

Mitigation Agreement with Grant County- Crose - Agreement needs the support of the board before going forward. Agreement would mitigate the loss of Shrub steppe lost need Ruff Washington with the development of a gravel quarry. The Grant County Public Works Department is expected to compensate for the mitigation which will go to habitat projects. This could be combined with the mitigation from Quincy Solar to provide a significant source of funding for such projects. If the board supports the agreement a finalize document would be presented at the January Meeting.

Motion by R. Leitz to continue finalizing the agreement with Grant County Public Works Department to mitigate for shrub steppe habitat lost, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.

Country Morning Farms- Stoltman- Old Reynolds dairy sold to Country Morning Dairy, though it is still run by Dan Reynolds. There are 260 head and 40 calves and an update to the plan was required. The lagoon, designed by NRCS, is unlined and it would be better lined though no run off issues currently exist. Bester containment and enlargement of the lagoon would be ideal.

RG Dairy – Stoltman- Fencing plan has been completed since the last board meeting. Formerly Farm-in-a Day or Avila Dairy, currently owned by Brent Roylance. Looking for approval of the plan by the board.

Motion by J. Preston to approve the RG Dairy plan. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.

Watershed Survey - Crose- There were 1200 responses to the survey that provided data for a baseline assessment of the economic and social values of the Moses Lake to the Watershed Council. The report did highlight changes in water quality, likely based on increase by Bureau of Reclamation increase of water through the lake to 160,000 Acre-feet in 2020. 2021 focus will be on the Rocky Ford Arm with looking into permits for Algaecide treatments (peroxide and Copper Sulfate). Ideally pursuit of a WaterSMART grant released later this month could address some of these issues.

Adjournment- *Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.*

Regular session was adjourned at 2:09 pm.



Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

Date

Summary of Motions:

1. Motion J. Preston by to accept the November 10th, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.
2. Motion by G. Burkholder to accept the December 2020 financial report, seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries. Checks #10069-10103 dated November 24, 2020 to December 8, 2020 were totaling \$56,722.44. Payroll checks #10069-10074 totaling \$ 7,949.81 and #10086-10096 totaling \$17,127.28 included in the above number.
3. Motion by J. Preston to accept Resolution 120820-4, seconded by seconded by G. Burkholder, Motion Carries
4. Motion by R. Leitz to continue finalizing the agreement with Grant County Public Works Department to mitigate for shrub steppe habitat lost, seconded by G. Burkholder, motion carries.
5. Motion by J. Preston to approve the RG Dairy plan. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.
6. Motion by J. Preston to adjourn. Seconded by R. Leitz, motion carries.