

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
210 N. Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 12, 2011

PRESENT

Supervisors: Gerald Scheele, Randy James, Tom Miller, Jaki Shrauger and Mary Sullivan

SCD Staff: Jim Armstrong, Rich Baden, Vicki Carter, Eric Choker, Lindsay Chutas, Garth Davis, Walt Edelen, Jilla Loan, Ty Meyer, Pat Munts, Ben Peterson, Rachel Rooks, and Stacey Selcho

Guests: Rich Edlund, NRCS

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the regular June 14, 2011, Board meeting had been previously distributed for review. A corrected version of the minutes was brought to the meeting as the original minutes listed Randy James as attending when he was absent.

Motion SHRAUGER/SULLIVAN to approve the June 14, 2011, Board meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy James presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2011.

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END BALANCE	ADJ. BALANCE
Checking	\$156,449.34	\$825,871.11	\$1,009,477.86	\$-27,157.41	\$250,000.00
FCAAP DRG- Acct 1090	\$21,973.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,973.74	\$21,973.74
Argonne Mit. Fund	\$92,352.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92,352.06	\$92,352.06
NW Pipeline Savings Acct	\$61,224.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,224.32	\$61,224.32
Sweep Act 6800601091	\$978,688.57	\$451,766.44	\$296,900.60	\$1,133,554.41	\$1,133,554.41
Bank of Whitman MMA	\$1,589,094.62	\$653.05	\$0.00	\$1,589,747.67	\$1,589,747.67

Chair Scheele reported that prior to the meeting he reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which was reconciled with the bank statements; and he reported that upon review of the checks from June he noticed that check #29971 was signed by two staff members. Randy James asked about the maintenance of the Ford Ranger and it was answered that it received new tires and had work done on the brakes and hubs.

Motion JAMES/SULLIVAN to approve the June TREASURER'S REPORT CLAIMS# 29958-30048 with VOID #29958 EFTs# 872, 888-900, 942-954, 1008-1012, RECEIPTS #7127-7171 with VOIDS #7070-71, and PAYROLL #2195-2198 (#2196 unused) and July ACCOUNTS PAYABLE of \$124,413.32. Motion Carried.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

Election of Officers

Vicki Carter distributed ballots to the Board members. Mary Sullivan suggested that the election of officers take place through motions instead of by ballot.

Motion JAMES/SHRAUGER to keep Jerry Scheele as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.
Motion SHRAUGER/MILLER to keep Randy James as the Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.

The Spokane Conservation District's Board meeting minutes are intended to be a reasonable summary of the Board's deliberations and action. The minutes are not a verbatim record of everything said at the meeting. The minutes include all actions taken by the Board.

Motion SULLIVAN/JAMES for Jaki Shrauger to serve as the Auditor of the Board of Supervisors. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS/LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments/Introductions

Chair Scheele introduced Rich Edlund, the NRCS District Conservationist, to Tom Miller, SCD's newest Supervisor.

New Outreach Efforts

Jim Armstrong did a run-through of the new web site, which was launched in June to positive reviews, after more than nine months in the making. Jim will begin writing the blog, From the Ground Up, which will be updated weekly; the web site and blog are an extension of the new outreach efforts that include the Conservation Corner column in The Exchange and the Team Green radio ads.

Soils Lab Tour & Demo

Eric Choker took the Board for a tour of the new soils lab and ran a soil test demo.

BOARD/CEO RELATIONSHIP

Executive Director's Brief

Rich had previously distributed a written copy of his activities to the Board. At the June meeting Rich had been asked to discuss the MOA with the Department of Ecology; over the month he spoke with both the DOE and the WACD about the wording of the MOA. There are various discussions currently being held and the status of the MOA is unknown at the point. It was recommended that the Board request that WACD remove the wording giving the Commission authority to direct legal actions of the conservation districts. Further discussion by Board members ensued indicating that there may be good reason or purpose for keeping the WSCC in the agreement, which addresses the governing authority of the WSCC.

Motion SULLIVAN/JAMES to maintain the existing agreement with the Department of Ecology until further progress is made by WACD, or if there are any changes that would warrant a new agreement. Motion Carried.

Motion SULLIVAN/JAMES to direct staff to forward the Board's comments to the WACD for their consideration in regards to the new MOU with the Department of Ecology. Motion Carried.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of consolidating districts in those counties with multiple districts. There was discussion about the funding that was awarded to individual districts instead of counties, including multiple districts within one county. There are currently 47 districts within the 39 counties of Washington State. A draft letter to the WSCC was discussed by the Board. It was recommended that Jim Armstrong rewrite the letter to include information about the decision in 1973 to consolidate the four districts into the Spokane County Conservation District for our Board to review at the next meeting. No further Board action was stipulated or made.

UPPER COLUMBIA RC&D

The existing MOU between the SCD and the Upper Columbia RC&D is outdated and should include the use of office space and continued use of administrative assistance.

Motion JAMES/SHRAUGER to update the existing MOU with the Upper Columbia RC&D to include the use of office space. Motion Carried.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Correspondence & Announcements

- We received a letter from the State Auditor's Office that our rates will increase by 6.5% beginning July 1

- Vicki distributed copies of notes from this morning's Manager's Meeting for the Board for review.
- We received our dues statement from WACD and will be paying \$4,600 for our 2011 dues. The Board declined to make any additional contributions.
- Chair Scheele commented on a letter that had been enclosed in the packets from Summit Business Solutions, owned by Sara Brasch Schmidt. Summit Business Solutions is a consulting firm specializing in strategic planning, executive search and government affairs.
- Rich Edlund thanked the District planners (Ben Peterson and Charlie Peterson) for their assistance to NRCS in recent projects

Annual Planning Session

The Annual Planning Session will be held on August 1-2, with the recognition dinner taking place the evening on August 1 at Beacon Hill Events. Invitations were mailed out yesterday, please RSVP before July 25 and guests must be paid for prior to the dinner.

READING OF THE MOTIONS

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The regular Board meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Rachel Rooks

Gerald Scheele, Chair

Jaki Shrauger, Member