

SPOKANE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
210 North Havana, Spokane, WA 99202
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2011

PRESENT

Supervisors: Randy James, Jaki Shrauger and Mary Sullivan
Absent: Gerald Scheele & Dixie Riddle

Associate Supervisors: None

SCCD Staff: Rich Baden, Vicki Carter, Eric Choker, Garth Davis, Walt Edelen, Jilla Loan, Ty Meyer, Pat Munts, Rachel Rooks, and Stacey Selcho

Guests: Ray Ledgerwood, WSCC; Tom Miller, general public; April Snyder, general public

Vice-Chair James called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He announced an Executive Session would be held in accordance with RCW 42.30.10 to review the performance of a public employee. The session was expected to begin at 7:00 p.m. and to last approximately 20 minutes.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the regular February 8, 2011, Board meeting had been previously distributed for review.

Motion SHRAUGER/SULLIVAN to approve the February 8, 2011, Board meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Randy James presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2011.

ACCOUNT	BEG. BALANCE	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	END BALANCE	ADJ. BALANCE
Checking	\$168,382.90	\$795,036.11	\$887,796.19	\$75,622.82	\$260,000.000
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 68006010191	\$1,284,803.54	\$189,696.58	\$559,404.80	\$915,095.32	\$915,095.32
Bank of Whitman MMA	\$1,084,637.11	\$832.05	\$0.00	\$1,105,469.16	\$1,105,469.16

Vicki Carter distributed a revised Treasurer's Report for January that reflected the refund from the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries who had mistakenly processed our payment three times last month. There will be another revised Treasurer's Report for February due to an error that was made by the remote capture system, which misread a check amount and shorted our AWB checking account \$10k. Jaki Shrauger reviewed all February bank statements including redeemed checks and reported no discrepancies in account and bank statement balances.

Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to approve the February TREASURER'S REPORT CLAIMS# 29625-29700, VOID#29679; EFTs # 159,207-219,250-262, 290,294-298, RECEIPTS #6933-6963, AND PAYROLL CHECKS #2181-2184 and March ACCOUNTS PAYABLE of \$89,476.56.

NEW BUSINESS/LINKAGE TO COMMUNITY

Public Comments & Introductions

Vice-Chair James introduced Tom Miller who came to observe the Board meeting. Tom comes from a farming family in the Rockford area and is a retired Marine Corps Col. and is currently a practicing attorney.

Election Announcement & Resolution

Jim Armstrong reported that pursuant to WAC 135-110-370, since there was no candidate running against Randy James, there was no election held, either by poll site or absentee/mail balloting, and Randy James was re-elected to his seat on the Board.

Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to accept the resolution AD.03.08.2011.A for the re-election of incumbent Randy James for a three-year term on the Board of Supervisors effective May 19, 2011. Motion carried.

Soils- Dig It! Update

Vicki has been working with Jim and Lynn Bahrych from the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) on a grant to hold a workshop for educators that will help develop soil science curriculum and that will help bring the Dig It: Secrets of Soil exhibit to Spokane. We are in negotiations with the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC), who is a Smithsonian affiliate, to host the exhibit. It is anticipated that the exhibit will be displayed from January to June 30, 2012. Jim showed a brief video presentation about the display.

Legislative Update

Jim provided a legislative update including news that: the Soil Scientist recertification bill died in the legislature yesterday and that he is fairly confident that the WSCC will not be moved under the Department of Agriculture as proposed. Jim has appointments to meet with legislators when he and Mary Sullivan attend the legislative days in Olympia, March 20-23. Ray Ledgerwood from the WSCC commented that the budget for the livestock/CREP/irrigation efficiency programs has been zeroed out, but that SCCD won't be affected as much as other districts in the state.

Ad Campaign

Jim talked about the new ad/marketing campaigns that have recently started including radio ads to promote the Direct Seed Loan Program that are running daily during the NW Ag Report on News Talk Radio 590 AM; we are also running radio spots on all six Clear Channel stations as part of their Team Green program, where we are providing various conservation/environmental tips. All radio spots are being created in-house by Jim. Starting on March 18 we will also be running a bi-weekly column in *The Exchange* called **Conservation Corner with Jim & Rachel**, which will run at least twice a month and will highlight current events and/or pertinent conservation issues. All of these new marketing strategies will hopefully tie into the new blog, **From the Ground Up**, which will begin when the new web site is launched on April 8.

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

Appointed Supervisor Position

Dixie Riddle announced that he will not seek re-appointment for his Board position which expires in May. Applications for the appointed supervisor position can be downloaded from the WSCC web site or obtained by calling the District office. Applications are due to the WSCC by March 31.

NRCS Conservation Cooperator Agreement

Rich distributed a reply from legal counsel Brian Werst regarding the conservation cooperator agreement from NRCS that was brought to the Board at the February meeting. Brian advised the Board to sign the agreement and Ray Ledgerwood added that the State Attorney General and state legal counsel had approved it as well.

Motion SHRAUGER/SULLIVAN to authorize Chair Scheele to sign the acknowledgment of Section 1619 Compliance with NRCS on behalf of the district. Motion carried.

WACD's Letter to RE: WA DOE Compliance MOA

A letter was received by the District from Chris Herron from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) that stated that the WACD was recommending all 47 districts in the state to formally terminate their Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Ecology (DOE) in relation to Agricultural Water Quality Management. A discussion ensued and it was decided that SCCD will continue our MOA with the DOE, and a letter will be drafted to the WACD to support continued communication between them and the DOE. The letter will be reviewed by the Board prior to be signed and mailed. Walt Edelen reported that he will be meeting with DOE livestock staff next week and will report back to the Board.

Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to write a letter to WACD in regards to the WA DOE Compliance MOA to encourage WACD leadership to communicate with DOE, to include WACD Board in future decisions and the districts involved in statewide issues, with the letter being submitted to WACD prior to the O&D meeting. Motion carried.

BOARD/CEO RELATIONSHIP

Executive Director's Brief

Rich distributed a written copy of his activities to the Board.

2011 Budget Amendment

Rich asked for Board approval to amend the budget under Fund 401, for the half-year payment of \$138,230 to WA DOE for SRF repayment of our current loan. Rich noted the payment would double in 2012.

Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to amend the 2011 budget approving the bi-annual payment to WA DOE for \$138,230 in fund 401. Motion carried.

Rich reported that the loan that was borrowed from the SRF fund in May 2009 will be repaid by the end of 2011. He also said that he did not transfer any funds to the Spokane County Investment Pool as discussed at the February meeting; he will be moving \$500k to the Bank of Whitman instead due to interest rates. Rich was invited to serve on the Research, Development and Knowledge Sharing Work Group of Solutions from the Land, which is an off-shoot of the 25x25 organization. His commitment will include teleconferences, and SCCD will cover his travel costs to a meeting in Davis, California on April 27-28. Mary Sullivan asked for a report from Rich after the conference in April. Rich and Ty Meyer discussed working with the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District to create a direct seed certification program using money from the DOE. They are working on establishing criteria for the program and providing effective outreach.

OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Correspondence & Announcements

- Vicki provided the Board with copies of the notes from that day's Manager's Meeting for their information about the current projects.
- There will be a webinar on Thursday at 6:30pm about the WACD budget; if you are interested in attending let Vicki know and she will send you the information on how to participate.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on April 16 at 8:30 am, in conjunction with the Small Farms Conference, at the Lair at Spokane Community College. The annual meeting portion is free and open to the public, the breakout sessions on the day

before, and after the meeting, are at a cost and registration information will be available online and is being coordinated by Pat Munts.

WADE Training: June 13-15

Rachel Rooks reported that the 2011 WADE training will be June 13-15 at the Sleeping Lady resort in Leavenworth. She handed out the brochure & tentative schedule, which includes an entire track aimed at supervisors. The registration deadline is May 14; those interested in attending were asked to let Rachel know.

Annual Planning Session

The dates for the annual planning session were discussed and it was decided to have it on a Monday and Tuesday, August 1-2, at the District. There will be an awards dinner on the night of August 1 with details being worked out.

Executive Session

The regular Board meeting adjourned and the Board entered in Executive Session at 7:12 p.m., it was announced that the session was expected to last until approximately 7:25 p.m. The Board extended the Executive Session for 10 minutes.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:35 pm and reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting. A discussion ensued and it was decided to schedule preparation of the Schedule 22 with Ray Ledgerwood for April 1. Ray Ledgerwood suggested having an orientation for potential new supervisors. Vicki announced that our accounting program, BIAS, will be upgraded to version 6.0 on March 28.

READING OF THE MOTIONS

- **Motion SHRAUGER/SULLIVAN to approve the February 8, 2011, Board meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried.**
- **Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to approve the February TREASURER'S REPORT CLAIMS# 29625-29700, VOID#29679; EFTs # 159,207-219,250-262, 290,294-298, RECEIPTS #6933-6963, AND PAYROLL CHECKS #2181-2184 and March ACCOUNTS PAYABLE of \$89,476.56.**
- **Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to accept the resolution AD.03.08.2011.A for the re-election of incumbent Randy James for a three-year term on the Board of Supervisors effective May 19, 2011. Motion carried.**
- **Motion SHRAUGER/SULLIVAN to authorize Chair Scheele to sign the acknowledgment of Section 1619 Compliance with NRCS on behalf of the district. Motion carried.**
- **Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to write a letter to WACD in regards to the WA DOE Compliance MOA to encourage WACD leadership to communicate with DOE, to include WACD Board in future decisions and the districts involved in statewide issues, with the letter being submitted to WACD prior to the O&D meeting. Motion carried.**
- **Motion SULLIVAN/SHRAUGER to amend the 2011 budget approving the bi-annual payment to WA DOE for \$138,230 in fund 401. Motion carried.**

The regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Rachel Rooks

Randy James, Vice-Chair

Jaki Shrauger, Supervisor