



Kittitas County Conservation District  
 2211 W. Dolarway Road, Suite 4 - Ellensburg, WA 98926 - Phone (509) 925-3352 - Fax (888) 546-0825

**Board of Supervisors Meeting**  
**September 29th, 2022 7:00 AM – Zoom Meeting ID: 849 3707 7981**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Board of Supervisors:</b> <b>Mark Moore</b> , Chair (In person) <b>Jeff Brunson</b> , Auditor (In person) <b>Matt Eslinger</b> , Member (In person)	<b>KCCD Staff:</b> <u>In Person</u> <b>Anna Lael</b> , District Manager <b>Mark Crowley</b> , Conservation Planner (Zoom) <b>Dayna Wilkinson</b> , Financial Manager <b>Brent Dixon</b> , Project Manager
<b>Guests:</b> <b>Chris Martin</b> , City of Roslyn FD (By Zoom) <b>Alissa Carlson</b> , Conservation Commission (By Zoom) <b>Darren Higashiyama</b> , Kittitas County Sheriff's Office (In Person) <b>Rose Shriner</b> , Washington RC&D (In Person)	

- I. **Call to Order**- Chair Mark Moore called the meeting to order at 7:01 AM. Attendees participated via Zoom and in person.
- II. **Public Comment** -Chair Moore called for public comment. There was none.
- III. **Reports**
  - A. **NRCS**
    - 1. **Payment Rates** - In early August Representative Schrier and/or her staff were at Windy N for a visit when she made tour through her district. At that meeting, Kittitas County Farm Bureau representatives conveyed the concerns about the payment rates at NRCS. They followed up by talking to Anna and asked that she provide a description of what happened to be provided to Schrier's staff as they were concerned about getting the details right. Anna did that on August 12, just laying the facts and the timeline for the change in payment rates and subsequent conversations with Roylene Comes at Night and her staff. Anna shared her PowerPoint and notes from the STAC meeting in April. On August 18 another STAC meeting occurred where it was announced that the payment rates for sprinklers would be raised to 65%. There have been additional conversations with Schrier's staff, some Anna has been involved with and others directly with Farm Bureau members. Last week Anna was on a call with 4 members of Schrier's staff who had a meeting on Friday (9/23) with several folks from NRCS HQ. They were trying to understand the payment rates, practices and the issues from producer perspectives. The report from them after the meeting with NRCS HQ was that Roylene was on the call as well. Yesterday Anna spoke with Field Office staff and learned that other NRCS staff were referring to this as a "congressional inquiry". Anna is sharing this with the Board since that characterization of the discussions was much more significant than what she thought was occurring. Schrier's staff is requesting another call this Friday to further discuss the situation.
- IV. **Action Items**
  - A. **Riparian Restoration Funding Grant**

The Conservation Commission approved KCCD's applications for the Taneum Creek project with the Yakama Nation and the Sorenson Creek application with Mid-Columbia Fisheries in early September. This is a new grant to the District and the addendum requires Board approval.

**MOTION** – Approve Addendums for the approved Taneum Creek, Sorenson Creek, and the pending Spring Creek and Ringer Loop projects under the 23-28-SRF grant with the Conservation Commission

**Jeff Brunson**, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

## **B. Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program**

### 1. Project Bid Schedules for Fall 2022

Projects for this fall include barrier removals on Coleman Creek and Caribou Creek. The District needs to put the projects out to bid and staff are requesting approval to do so.

**MOTION** – Approve advertising of the Caribou Creek and Coleman Creek barrier removal projects for bid.

**Jeff Brunson**, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

### 2. Ranch on Swauk Creek – Retainage Payment

All releases have been received for the contract with Advantage Dirt Contractors. Funds are in hand and can now be paid.

**MOTION**- Approve payment of the retainage for Ranch on Swauk Creek Project.

**Matt Eslinger**, seconded by **Jeff Brunson** *Passed Unanimously*

## **C. USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant**

KCCD has been asked to participate in an application for the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant. Anna has been aware of this grant opportunity since it was published in August. KFACC members have discussing with particular interest in prioritized project list by the Kittitas County Fire Chiefs Association in consultation with DNR and the Forest Service that include Potential Control Lines (PCLs) and Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) relevant to fire control operations (e.g. roads, ridgetops, and water bodies). Last week Anna was asked if KCCD would consider being the applicant for this grant. It is federal funding and the maximum allowed request is \$10 million. A 25% match is required, but as it happens Kittitas County qualifies as low income and so the match is waived. The Board of County Commissioners were involved along with Public Works but decided last week that they wouldn't be the applicant. The partners do not want to miss the opportunity for a funding award of this size for the County and it's not clear how much longer the low-income waiver will be in effect. There is strong support from the Fire Chiefs and Sheriff's Office (Emergency Management). Anna also reported that Commissioner Wright communicated his support for KCCD as the grant applicant. Deputy Higashiyama spoke about the history of this grant application with the Fire Chiefs and with Kittitas County. Rose also spoke about the grant application which she and Chris Martin will primarily be writing. The grant would include funds for a full-time staff person to manage the projects. Anna is requesting Board approval to submit the application.

**MOTION**- Authorize District Manager to complete and submit an application to the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant.

**Matt Eslinger**, seconded by **Jeff Brunson** *Passed Unanimously*

## **V. Adjournment**

Chair Mark Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:47 PM.

---

**MOTIONS APPROVED:**

**MOTION** – Approve addendums for projects listed above under the 23-28-SRF grant with the Conservation Commission.  
**Jeff Brunson**, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

**MOTION** – Approve advertising of the Caribou Creek and Coleman Creek barrier removal projects for bid.  
**Jeff Brunson**, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

**MOTION**- Approve payment of the retainage for Ranch on Swauk Creek  
**Matt Eslinger**, seconded by **Jeff Brunson** *Passed Unanimously*

**MOTION**- Authorize District Manager to complete and submit an application to the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant.  
**Matt Eslinger**, seconded by **Jeff Brunson** *Passed Unanimously*

---

 10/13/22  
Recording Secretary      Date

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member

10/13/22  
Date