



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
August 12, 2021 7:00 AM – Zoom Meeting ID: 886 7543 9043

ATTENDANCE

Board of Supervisors: Mark Moore , Chair Lynn Brown , Vice Chair Bill Boyum , Member Matt Eslinger , Member	KCCD Staff: Anna Lael , District Manager Miranda Nash , Financial Manager Sherry Swanson , Project Manager
Guests: Austin Shero , NRCS Area Conservationist, Erin Kaczmarczyk , NRCS District Conservationist, Allisa Carlson , WSCC South Central Regional Manager	

- I. **Call to Order**- Chair Mark Moore called the meeting to order at 7:06 AM. Attendees participated in person and via Zoom.

- II. **Approve Accountant’s Report and Meeting Minutes**
MOTION – Approve the July Accountant’s Report and the regular meeting minutes from July 8, 2021 and special meeting minutes from July 27, 2021.
Matt Eslinger, seconded by **Bill Boyum** *Passed Unanimously*

- III. **Approve Bills, including Building Account Bills**
 (see attached spreadsheet)

MOTION – Approve check numbers 20137 - 20185 for a total of \$215,722.86 Payroll Checks 20143 - 20150 and 20182-20185) building account check numbers 2032-2040 for a total of \$9,587.05. Approve pending payments totaling \$70,597.97 contingent upon receiving grant reimbursement requests.
Bill Boyum, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

Pending Bills To Be Paid

Date	Check #	Vendor	Amount
06/01/21	TBD	Uplift Desk	\$5,045.70
08/11/21	TBD	Ed Doern	\$10,395.00
07/16/21	TBD	Kittitas Conservation Trust	\$6,057.48
08/02/21	TBD	Anderson Perry	\$5,335.00
08/02/21	TBD	Anderson Perry	\$1,076.25
08/02/21	TBD	Anderson Perry	\$11,677.50
08/02/21	TBD	Anderson Perry	\$1,458.75
07/13/21	TBD	HLA	\$3,530.00
08/12/21	TBD	Springbrook Express	\$11,881.29
08/12/21	TBD	Springbrook Express	\$14,141.00

\$70,597.97

IV. Austin Shero, Central Area Conservationist – Austin introduced himself to the Board. He has been in his position for about a year. Erin followed with the NRCS monthly report. She will be scheduling a local work group meeting, probably in October. Anna asked about eligibility of Irrigation Water Management Entities (irrigation districts, etc) and about the EQIP-WaterSmart funding for our County. Erin reported that we are not likely to hear about the EQIP funds until maybe as late as March. Austin stated that eligibility requirements are being established for irrigation districts/companies.

V. Project Reports

A. Springbrook Financial Software - We continued to work with Springbrook and were able to negotiate an acceptable annual subscription rate. The contract was signed last week. Meetings will begin with the transition team this month to set up the software. The plan is to switch completely over on January 1, 2022.

B. Voluntary Stewardship Program

1. **Carcass composting** - We continue to discuss the carcass dumping and wolf attraction issue. At the VSP meeting, WDFW staff attended to brief the Watershed Group on the status of the Naneum wolf pack. It was agreed that outreach and a fall workshop on carcass composting would be the priority. Anna will keep working with WDFW and the other stakeholders on a longer term solution including possibly a carcass composting facility.
2. **Two Year Report** - We are working on the two-year report which is due August 30th. A draft will be sent out to the Watershed Group for review prior to submitting.

C. YTAHP Projects

1. **Caribou Creek Fish Passage** - We are pursuing a potential time extension for the Fish Barrier Removal Board grant for this project. The cost estimates are much higher than the budget. The pipe prices are \$41/foot and the total cost of materials is over \$200,000. Mark Crowley received quotes from Kooy and HD Fowler. The current deadline for the grant is June 30, 2022 and we'll be asking for at least a 6-month extension.
2. **Parke Creek Fish Passage** - This project also has a Fish Barrier Removal Board grant that ends June 30, 2022. The accompanying grant through Ecology for the sprinkler conversion ends December 31, 2021. We are working on a time extension for this grant as there have been changes with the producer's family that may impact the ability to complete the project this fall.

D. KCCD Long Range Plan - The survey for the KCCD Long Range Plan update will be completed this month and be out for public involvement in September. The update must be done by end of the calendar year.

VI. Action Items

A. Voluntary Stewardship Program

1. **Reappointment of Members** – In our current interlocal agreement, in the definitions section, it says: "Watershed Group" means an entity designated by the COUNTY under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.715. But then under the scope of work, it says: "The DISTRICT will organize members of a VSP watershed group with representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups including but not limited to tribes, environmental groups, and agriculture. Organization of a vetted core watershed group comprised of a broad

representation of key watershed stakeholders and, at a minimum, representatives of agricultural and environmental groups and tribes that agree to participate. The DISTRICT will encourage existing lead entities, watershed planning units, or other integrating organizations to serve as the watershed group.” This is template language provided by the Conservation Commission.

This was shared with Dan Carlson (CDS) and he agreed that KCCD could conduct the process of reappointing the members as part of “organizing” the watershed group.

MOTION – Direct KCCD staff to solicit members for the VSP Watershed Group representing the same entities (agricultural groups, tribes, and environmental interests).

Bill Boyum, seconded by **Lynn Brown** *Passed Unanimously*

- B. WSCC RCPP Contribution Contract** - The RCPP Contribution contract for the Yakima Integrated Plan Toppenish to Teanaway project with the Conservation Commission is expected shortly. There was \$157,931.84 left at the end of the biennium and the Legislature approved another \$570,400. The extended contract or maybe new contract will be for \$728,331.84. There will also be a new RCPP Contribution contract for the new project (Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership) for \$210,992.

MOTION – Approve both RCPP Contribution contracts with the Washington State Conservation Commission for \$728,331.84 and \$210,992.

Bill Boyum, seconded by **Matt Eslinger** *Passed Unanimously*

C. WSCC Natural Resource Investment Projects

1. **Approve Project List** – Anna reported that with the adoption of final grant programmatic guidelines by the Conservation Commission and a new legislative appropriation of \$4,000,000 for the 21-23 biennium, each conservation district may apply for up to \$78,666 in Natural Resource Investments funding. Conservation districts may submit the grant addendum form to apply for this funding at any time. Each district’s share of the funding will be held for 90 days, until September 30th, and can be held for a longer period as long as the district is working in good faith with their Regional Manager to identify eligible projects.

Anna reported that changing the project ranking criteria should be considered. Mark Crowley reported that many projects on the previous list have been either completed or declined. He believes there are about 10 sprinkler conversion projects and maybe 3 more to add. Anna suggested that some of the funding could be used for firewise work which is not included in this ranking criteria. The Board briefly discussed the project criteria and directed staff to draft new criteria for the next Board meeting.

D. Kittitas County Fire District No. 7 Interlocal Agreement

We are working with Fire District 7 to utilize their crew for some fall work. Their FEMA grant ends in early September, so at that point, we could use the crew for our work (most of which is in FD 7). We are hopeful that DNR can issue another chipper grant for this fall so the crew could chip for landowners. We also have a shaded fuel break project in Wagon Wheel. This cooperative effort would provide us with a chipper crew (which we need) and their crew with an extended work season.

MOTION – Approve the Interlocal Agreement with Kittitas County Fire District 7 for use of their fuels reduction crew.

Bill Boyum, seconded by **Lynn Brown** *Passed Unanimously*

E. Yakima Integrated Plan Sprinkler Grant (Ecology)

1. Approve grant agreement for 2022-2023

Through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, KCCD was awarded another \$400,000 for sprinkler conversion projects. This will be similar to the existing grant in that trust water opportunities will be prioritized highest. The trust water length in the existing grant has been 15 years. Anna has submitted the draft agreement to Ecology.

MOTION – Approve the grant agreement for the Kittitas RCPP Irrigation Efficiency Improvements grant (WRYBIP-2123-KitCCD*-00025) for \$400,000 with Department of Ecology.

Bill Boyum, seconded by **Lynn Brown** *Passed Unanimously*

F. COCO Grant – Survey Assistance

1. Hire temporary staff

This week, the University of Idaho and Kittitas County Conservation District will begin visiting residents in upper county to drop off and pick up surveys at primary residential residences. We expect to continue this effort until the end of August and will reevaluate response rates. The second phase of the survey will be a mailing portion to secondary residential property owners.

This is the press release:

Wildfire researchers from the University of Idaho will administer surveys to residences in the upper Kittitas County area throughout August in an effort to inform future wildfire management. Researchers will visit residential properties in person to hand out surveys to residents. They will then return to each residence a day or two later to pick up completed surveys. Residents with second homes can expect to receive versions of the survey by mail starting in September.

If you have questions about the study, please contact University of Idaho researcher Allison (Rose) at ashriener@uidaho.edu.

There is a shortage of the staff to assist with this work, so Wendy will be assisting (paid for by the COCO grant). There may be some need for and opportunity to hire additional temporary staff.

MOTION – Authorize District Manager to hire temporary staff to assist with the survey work in the upper County as needed.

Lynn Brown, seconded by **Bill Boyum** *Passed Unanimously*

G. Coleman Olmstead

1. Flowmeter

The flowmeter for this project has not functioned correctly. There is a fix, but it does not appear to be a warranty issue as the contractor installed it per design and the engineers designed it per ABB instructions (meter manufacturer). After significant back and forth with the ABB representative, the fix appears to be relocating the meter to the vault and installing a new indicator/totalizer in its place. A cost was acquired by Hurst from Cabin Creek Electric, the electrician on the project. The work can be (and must) be completed by the end of this month as the grant ends 9/1/21.

MOTION – Approve the Hurst cost for relocating the flowmeter for \$5,132.33.

Bill Boyum, seconded by **Lynn Brown** *Passed Unanimously*

VII. Public Comment

A. **Allisa Carlson** reported that the joint committee for elections is currently asking for input from districts. Comments are due August 18th. The biennial reports from districts are due September 24. Carol Smith is retiring with the last day in the office October 22. The Commission is looking for comments on the cultural resources policy due by September.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Mark Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:07 AM.

MOTIONS APPROVED:

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Mianda Nash 09/09/21
Recording Secretary Date

Mark Moore
Board Member

9/9/21
Date