



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

Board of Supervisors Special Meeting

March 30, 2017 12:00PM KCCD Office

ATTENDANCE

<p>Mark Moore, Chair Jeff Brunson, Auditor Ron Gibb, Member</p>	<p>KCCD Staff: Anna Lael, District Manager Miranda Nash, Financial Manager Sherry Swanson, Project Manager Mark Crowley, Resource Technician Ryan Roberts, Engineer</p>
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- I. **Call to Order-** Chair Mark Moore called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM

- II. **YTAHP** – Anna discussed that the end of the contract year is approaching. She is working with the North Yakima Conservation District to spend down the funding. She’s asking for Board approval to sign an agreement with them for approximately \$15,000.
MOTION – Authorize Anna to enter into an agreement with the North Yakima Conservation District.
Jeff Brunson, seconded by Ron Gibb *Passed Unanimously*

- III. **CREP** – Anna reported that we received invoices from Fabian Kuchin for maintenance of his CREP project for 2015 and 2016. The costs were submitted to the Commission for payment. The Commission only approved the portion that falls in the current biennium (after July 1, 2015). Anna asked for approval of the check to Kuchin for the approved maintenance costs.
MOTION – Approve payment to Kuchin for 2015 & 2016 CREP maintenance as approved by the Commission.
Ron Gibb, seconded by Jeff Brunson *Passed Unanimously*

- IV. **RCCP** – Anna presented examples of screening and ranking criteria established by the Big Bend Team for regular EQIP and by NRCS for the Future Directions sign up last year. She also showed the Board the potential ranking criteria included in the RCCP proposal. Anna is trying to prepare for the first EQIP sign up under RCCP this fall, which means that the screening and ranking criteria have to be established and then published at least 30 days prior to the sign-up starting. In the table of deliverables that Anna and Tom Elliot (Yakama Nation staff) have to submit to the NRCS, there is \$900,000 per year for 4 fiscal years starting with FY18. The Board discussed the existing list of EQIP applications (35+) and the percentage of projects funded annually (less than 10%). At a recent Local Work Group meeting, there was a discussion about an increasing the hold down for sprinklers from the current level of \$50,000. The Local Work Group ultimately decided not to change it for the FY18 regular EQIP sign-up. The Board talked about not wanting to create confusion between regular EQIP and the RCCP funds, and a different hold down for sprinklers might do that.

 The Board discussed how to address fish screens and barrier removal as part of the RCCP project. The hold downs for those practices probably should be higher than regular EQIP, as the fish habitat/passage is a focus of the RCCP proposal. The \$900,000 in budget per year for the next 4 fiscal years is for sprinkler projects, fish screen/passage/habitat practices, grazing practices in the Teanaway, and eventually even the Healthy Forest Reserve Program forest

plans. The emphasis for the sprinkler conversion projects is both water quality and water quantity so while water left instream would potentially gain more points, it wouldn't be the only priority. The Board talked about using ranking criteria similar to the non-shellfish projects. Anna brought up possibly incorporating criteria in coordination with KRD and other irrigation districts/companies to try to direct funding to areas that are priorities for them as well.

Anna indicated the partners to the RCPP project will be brought into the development of the screening and ranking criteria before they are finalized. The criteria do need to be to NRCS by August so that the sign-up could be planned for October.

The Board directed Anna to continue to work on the criteria, keeping in mind that the sprinkler projects would have the same hold down as regular EQIP. They asked for the criteria to be drafted by the May Board meeting for a first review. Anna will then be working with the RCPP partners to get feedback on the criteria as well.

V. Adjournment – Mark Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:53 PM

MOTIONS APPROVED:

MOTION – Authorize Anna to enter into an agreement with the North Yakima Conservation District.
Jeff Brunson, seconded by Ron Gibb *Passed Unanimously*

MOTION – Approve payment to Kuchin for 2015 & 2016 CREP maintenance as approved by the Commission.
Ron Gibb, seconded by Jeff Brunson *Passed Unanimously*

 Miranda Nash 4/13/17
Recording Secretary Date

 Mark A. Moore 04/13/2017
Board Member Date