



**Grant County Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2019 - 1:00 PM
1107 S Juniper Dr., Moses Lake, WA 98837**

Attendance:

Supervisors – Dave Stadelman (Chair), Richard Leitz, John Preston

Staff – Marie Lotz (Manager-Recorder), Lyle Stoltman, Harold Crose, Doug Allen

Agencies – Mike Baden (Field Manger WA State Conservation Commission)

Others – Kevin Fuhr (Interim Manager City of Moses Lake), Karen Liebrecht (Mayor City of Moses Lake)

Call Meeting to Order:

A quorum was established. Stadelman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Public Input:

There was no input from the public.

Approval of November 12, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes:

There was no suggested changes or additions to the previous meeting minutes.

Preston made the motion to approve the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, second by Leitz, motion carries.

Approval of November 22, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes:

There was no suggested changes or additions to the special meeting minutes.

Leitz made the motion to approve the November 22, 2019 special meeting minutes as presented, Preston seconded, motion carries.

Approval of December 10, 2019 Monthly Financial Reports:

Presented by Lotz, explained items on financial report. Items included monies owed or are owing, vacation and sick leave balances, payroll liabilities, grant amounts remaining, transactions and deposits. Also discussed burn permits, money market accounts, and ending balances.

Motion by Preston to accept the December 10, 2019 monthly financial reports as presented, second by Leitz, motion carries. Checks #9613-9654 dated November 13, 2019 to December 10, 2019 were totaling \$41,004.70. Payroll checks #9617-9620 totaling \$6,335.16 and #9628-9633 totaling \$10,423.48 included in total above.



Agency Reports:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Presented by Allen for NRCS, topics presented included; CART (desktop conservation planning tool), LWGs (Local Working Groups) changes and next meeting date January 10, 2020, CRP signups started yesterday and closes February 28, 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding programs, acreages, changes, County allocations for VSP, looking for assistance with retired contracts. There is a potential for GCCD to help with some technical assistance on those expired contracts.

City of Moses Lake Agreement:

At this point Moses Lake City Mayor Liebrecht entered to report on current activities with the City Council and introductions were made.

Summarized talking points:

City wants to be part of the District, the lake is vital to all, doesn't want to end up in lawsuit.

Election (to join District), City would fund election if put on General Ballot next November.

Discussion ensued, Crose made several points including:

- Districts abilities to cross borders and work with many people
- We provide TA to protect natural resources and have applied for many TA related grants already
- We use rates and charges funding to provide TA on many projects but we are maxed out on resources, need another body (FTE), to help with workload
- Fixing the lake is going to be a long-term commitment
- It's not about the money the City would help with, that amount (\$46K) would go right back into the project. Without city's backing, we would have to back away from leading the Watershed Council.

Mayor Liebrecht – What would it take today to move forward? Answer – “to join the District”

At this point Fuhr offered a suggestion – what if a 3- or 5-year agreement was worked out to continue funding at that amount? He reiterated it would be the Councils decision, not his own.

The decision to join District would still go to a vote, if the vote passed at the time the agreement would die and no longer be valid.

Much discussion ensued, Crose thought that new option was significant improvement. Thinks it would be good and beneficial to have City or other invested parties be embedded with the CD to provide oversight.

More discussion ensued, at this point Leitz stated that Crab Creek watershed is targeted for a TMDL and subsequent monitoring along with restrictions and it could not work if Moses Lake (the waterbody) wasn't included. He went on to say how discouraging it was that the GCCD never even got a chance to speak before the City of Moses Lake Council.



Liebrecht responded that “bad info” from the former city manager was the reason. It was supposed to be a budget-saving item or decision but it worked out wrong. Fuhr added that all those players at the City level aren’t there anymore.

The Mayor stated that she liked the idea of a long-term relationship (with the District).

Baden added that the Commission (WSCC) stands behind the process that’s in place as state in Statute.

Stadelman asked the mayor if she could go back and ask for more money (\$46k to \$75k) adding that the higher funding amount could make it easier for the GCCD Board to consider.

The Mayor and Fuhr said they will go back (to the council) and ask for the 5-year funding.

Discussion amongst Supervisors continued – Lotz reminded the Board of the resolution passed recently stating that the GCCD will not continue with the leadership process unless they join the District.

Another suggestion was to not let it go for 5 years but more like 3 years which would be the duration of the grants.

Agency Reports Continued:

Back to agenda, continuing with the WSCC report.

WA State Conservation Commission (WSCC) – Baden continued to talk about Statewide elections for CDs. The topic was discussed at the recent Annual meeting that took place in Tacoma. Much discussion ensued but the topic ended with King County CD saying they still wanted to go through the election process even though it might cost them close to 1 million dollars to hold an election.

Baden went on to report CRP is ending and District’s should be looking to do some possible task orders to care of the contracts etc.

Baden also reported that there will be a first run of budget provisos soon. The Orca money will need to have a report completed with that as well.

There will be no decisions on NRI money for projects at this time and probably won’t be until spring at the earliest.

Old Business:

Office Space Update – Update presented by Lotz, has been in contact with fire chief and all is going well, RFP will go out during January for engineering/architect.



Moses Lake Watershed Council – There was a meeting November 19th, previously discussed in today's agenda, if Moses Lake city decides to opt out of District then Watershed Council will dissolve and the GCCD will decline any associated grants if awarded. Those grant applications included Water Quality grant and a Blue-green Algae grant.

WACD Update – Lotz – The new WACD executive director will be coming on board in January. The new executive director is Tom Salzer. It was generally agreed by those in attendance (Preston, Leitz, Stadelman) that he will do a good job.

Election February 22, 2020 – Scheduled for February 22nd. Preston asked Lotz to talk to Roseburg to see if he'll be going to go for appointed position again. The GCCD office will be the polling place again this year.

VSP Work Group Meeting – Recent working group meeting was held November 26, many attended on phone and in person. Went over 2-5 years plans. Approved a budget, for cost share too.

The group talked about future meetings, they all decided to not hold meetings if there was no real business to discuss on the agendas.

Adams County VSP – need agreement.

Algae Grant Application – Recently applied for a DOE grant with a \$50k max. Will be used in part for outreach and education. Will be discussing and looking at septic systems.

New Business:

Legislative Day January 21, 2020 – Scheduled for January 21 in Olympia, Lotz wanted to know who would like to attend this year so she can make accommodations and other arrangements as needed. Preston, Stadelman would like to attend.

Cost Share Trout Farms – Presented by Stoltman – Stoltman said he has been working with Trout Farms to lessen their impact to the lake. They've submitted a cost share application for a mortality composting system. A bio-filter bag can also be added that acts as a weeping wall to keep more solids out of the liquid waste stream. Stoltman says there is a lot more to do at the hatchery over time but this a good step. If funded the cost share funding will come out of NRI funding pool.

Leitz made the motion to approve the Troutlodge cost share application for \$17,000 to help fund a "ecodrum" for composting and handling mortalities at the hatchery, second by Preston, motion carries.

Road Signs – Presented by Allen – all is going up, everything is working fine, having a little trouble finding locations of them all. Also was wondering where else some signs could go up. Many good alternative locations discussed. There are at least 2 signs in Adams County – suggested to make signs that say "Adams County serviced by Grant County Conservation District".



Other New Business:

Fekkes Dairy NMP Revision – Presented by Stoltman, a second revision was developed for the Bill Fekkes dairy. He has increased his herd size and added a new milking parlor and other buildings. Stoltman said he'll need an upgraded and lined lagoon to store liquids. The updated plan says he'll need 940 acres for spreading nutrient to balance for phosphorus. The Fekkes dairy is not under any kind of enforcement action. The request for the revision was voluntary.

Preston made the motion to approve the second Fekkes dairy revision and update, second by Leitz, motion carries.

Fekkes Cost Share – An application was completed for the Fekkes dairy to be put on the NRI waiting list for a new excavated lined lagoon or a new concrete settling structure/weeping wall. Both projects will cost in excess of \$100,000 total. The application is for the WSCC maximum amount of \$50,000.

Motion by Leitz to approve the Fekkes cost share for \$50,000 for a waste management system, lined lagoon or concrete settling basin, second by Preston, motion carries.

Adjournment:

There wasn't any further business or additional comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM. The next monthly Board Meeting will be on January 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the GCCD office.

Chair Approval

Recorder Signature

Date

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Summary of Motions:

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