

Asotin County Conservation District
Thursday, May 20th, 2010
Board Meeting Minutes
Minutes Taken By: Pat Worle

Chairman Keith Ausman called the Board Meeting, held at the District Office, to order at 7:45 p.m. Supervisors present were Jerry Hendrickson, Ron Scheibe and Rod Hostetler. Attending were: Larry Brewer (SE Regional Manager – WSCC), Ashlee Witters (Assoc. Supervisor) and Jim Schroeder (NRCS). ACCD Staff: Sandy Cunningham, Megan Stewart, Casey Scott, Mike Miraglio and Pat Worle

Minutes:

The minutes of the May 6, 2010 Board Meeting were reviewed. *Rod Hostetler moved and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2010 Board Meeting, with the correction under new business of “Rod Scheibe” To “Ron Scheibe seconded the motion to approve Brad Forgey’s cost-share application.”* **Motion Carried.**

Financial Reports:

Jerry Hendrickson moved and Ron Scheibe seconded to approve checks #1389 to #1390 and #9598 to #9622 for \$ 21,555.33. **Motion Carried.** The Board approved the financial reports and compensated absences.

The District Budget was reviewed.

There will be a meeting at 9:30 a.m., May , 2010 regarding the TSP Budget and Agreement. Ray Ledgerwood has delegated Larry Brewer to act as his representative.

The Headgate Park funds will all be spent. The Board asked about available grants at this time. Sandy said that the staff is always watching for possibilities and reviewing them to make sure the funding and goals meet the District’s criteria. A SRFB application is currently in process for a project at Wilson’s Banner Ranch.

Correspondence: None

Calendars and Events:

The employee schedules were reviewed.

Envirothon 2010 Report – Mike had made a photo display on the wall with pictures of all the teams and volunteers. It was a wonderful day at Field Springs State Park and we had great support from Shawn Bristol, the Park Ranger who even prepared a warming fire for the teams prior to our arrival. There were 5 very competitive teams from Clarkston High School whose teachers and curriculum had prepared them for the envirothon topics. They worked hard at each station and then prepared good oral reports for the judges. Jerry Hendrickson suggested making a DVD on our Envirothon program and distributing it to the local schools. Jerry said that he would like to contact Asotin High School and talk with some of the teachers and administrative staff about participation in Envirothon. Now is the time to start making contacts so that teachers can plan a curriculum for the next school year that includes Envirothon topics. Mike said that he is hoping to expand the competition to include Asotin and Pomeroy. Our 1st place team will be going to Randall, WA next week for Regionals.

Cultural Resource Meeting – Representatives will meet to discuss Cultural Resources on Wednesday, May 25, 2010 following the STAC meeting in Spokane, WA. Among the issues being discussed is the concern that WSCC will not extend beyond the established deadlines putting the District at risk of losing as much as \$7,000 of funding. At the District level the lack of efficiency and time management in processing cultural resource related projects is unnecessarily complicating the projects. A lack of consistency has been creating unnecessary delays. NRCS wants to turn the consultation over to the Tribes – possibly consulting with every concerned Tribe. TSP requires that Cultural Resource Surveys take place even with no After further discussion, the Board’s consensus was that they wanted a letter sent to Mark explaining our Cultural Resource circumstances and challenges and ask if he can do something to prevent the District from

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losing as much as \$7,000 in funding due to delays. Larry Brewer commented that 100% of practices will be reviewed by the Tribes until they are convinced that NRCS is doing everything right. Jim Schroeder said that NRCS policy is that the State Conservationist would make the determination as to how much and who will be consulted with. Eastern Washington is apparently dealing with issues unlike anywhere else. The Board commented that there is no real justification for consultation on private land projects but noted that is a subject for debate at almost all levels. The Board agreed that the District should invite Patrick Baird, the Executive Committee Representative from the NP Tribe to attend the May 25, 2010 TSP meeting. Currently attending are representatives from WACD, WCC, NRCS, ACCD and Plateau Investigations.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

WCC Budget Request – The Board reviewed the FY 2012 and 2013 Budget Request packet and draft. Measurable outcomes were discussed. Larry told the Board that general statements are appropriate to give an example of a measurable outcome. No decision has been made yet about how these budget requests will equate to budget allocations in a year. Of the \$137,000 requested in the budget, over \$100,000 is allocated for on the ground projects. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Rod Hostetler seconded to approve the budget request.*
Motion Carried.

Tree Watering – The Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for tree watering will be published in the Tribune before the next Board meeting. The Board was asked to consider that the outcome decision on the RFQQ be made by the staff. The project requirements will include watering the bottom of Shumaker which will be the second year for the replants and the Couse Creek plugs. The watering will include K&C, Vantrease, Whitman County and the willows on George Creek. The flags have been pulled and the watering is done on Couse Creek and George Creek. Discussion followed: CREP, BPA and SRFB funding; lump bid – one contractor; bid determination should include quality of work – not just quotes. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Rod Hostetler seconded a motion to have the staff made the decision on the bid outcome for tree watering.*
Motion Carried.

Conservation Plan Revision –

- 1) ***Gerald Halsey (Clarification)*** – At the last Board Meeting (5/6/10) the Board decided on a fencing change on Gerald Halsey's cost-share application for riparian fencing. The approved cost-share application went to Committee and was passed. FSA will now need to have a conservation plan revision. The Board gave approval their approval to the plan.

Larry Brewer, SE Regional Manager (WSCC) – Larry asked if the District had “any category 3?” 1) Rich Witters' livestock and 2) all of WHIP and EQIP that didn't get funded as well as the ones that did – hoping to find the funding. If so, the projects will need to be entered into the database. The database will be used to market projects to funding sources with available monies. Until the Districts are given the money to do these things, cultural resources will not be required. Larry told the Board that the elections and appointments had officially been certified effective today, May 20, 2010. A committee meeting “summary” will be provided to District Supervisors and Managers after each meeting from now on. WCC is involved in strategic planning for working with Districts in the future. The Budget for the upcoming year in all probability be the allocations for the current year minus 5%. The WCC will be completely closing done for 10 days each year per the State of Washington's decision concerning funding and staffing. The Committee won't be making the call regarding educational projects – it will be a District decision. There will be July meeting in Spokane – travel will be limited.

Jerry suggested that we consider planning a tour in July to include cattle and water quality projects and invite the legislators. There will also be the June 24 tour with NRCS and WSU/Asotin County Extension which will include wheat plots.

District Manager Report:

Sandy thanked the Staff for their work while she was gone.

The State Auditors will be here from June 2-8 to audit the District's 2007 and 2008 financial records.

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Sandy told the Board that the performance evaluations for the Staff will be ready for the Board to review at the next meeting as well as her performance paperwork.

FYI from Walla Walla County – the Tri-State Steelheaders will hold a public meeting in July and will start working in our area soon after. They are a non-profit group who use federal funds to operate. There will be a new group forming here with their own Board. The Board agreed that they will not be a significant threat to the District. The Staff will the Board appraised of their progress.

Technician Reports:

Casey reported that 3 CREP projects were presented at the last committee meeting.

Mike gave the Board an update on the National Fire Plan Grant. We can expect to receive the agreement by next week and can start billing for in-house work by June 1. The Grant has been reduced down from \$200,000 to \$189,959 allowing for \$10,041 in overhead to be taken out. "Until it is signed by Chuck Turley, it doesn't go out on the street." The shaded fuel break bids close 5/21 at 4 p.m. The bids are to be opened in Ellensburg at the Department of Lands (DNR). Mike was contacted by 4 prospects interested in the bidding packets – the packets are available on line at the DNR website. The Western States Grants – fire mitigation in Eastern Washington – include \$167,000 with an ongoing 50/50 match is still unspoken for – and the fuels reduction-timber stand improvement at a \$20,000 yearly limit for landowners are available. Firewise update – Mike needs 4 more assessments prior to the October 31, 2010 deadline.

NRCS Report:

The CSP program deadline as announced – the sign-up period ends June 11, 2010.

The upcoming ACCD/NRCS/WSU-ACE Tours on June 23 and 24, 2010 will include direct seed visits to the Ausman's and Cloverland sites. Watch for tour flyers and emails which will include the agendas.

Review of Motions:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. by Chairman Keith Ausman.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday – June 10th, 2010
7:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN SIGN

DATE

SUPERVISOR SIGN

DATE