

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 9, 2023

Attendees

Supervisors in person: Chair Randy James, Tom Miller, Jaki Shrauger, and Wendy Knopp

Attending by phone: Jerry Scheele

Absent: None

Associate Supervisors: Sara Schlake, Chris Mahelona

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine, Hilary Gonzalez, Jess Brown, Jeff Cunningham, Garth Davis

Visitors: Damian Sing with AgWest Farm Credit

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was a hybrid of on-site and remote attendees using the Microsoft Teams app to connect the participants.

Chair Randy James called the meeting to order at 4:00PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes/Treasurer's Report

Acceptance of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was previously distributed. The board accepted the Consent Agenda items consisting of:

- January 9, 2024, Board Agenda
- December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- December 2023 Treasurer's Report
- December 2023 Payables Report
- January 2024 Payables Report

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the January payables Report for \$24,279.52 Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the December payables Report for \$316,225.07. Motion carried.

New Business/Linkage to Community

Spokane County resident, Damian Sing with AgWest Farm Credit, was introduced. Sing has a forestry and nursery background, previously worked for the USDA and was in attendance to learn more about the SCD.

Public Comments: None

Financial Report:

Turntine reviewed the final budget position of 2023. She noted there is an exception in the report as there is a glitch in the loan program portion of BIAS that we are working through. We will be continuing conversations with our Springbrook Express support to mitigate and prevent any further issues. Despite this, the budget position landed where it was expected. Total 2023 revenues were \$11,629,676.92 with expenses of \$9,072,596.39 and an excess of \$2,557,080.53, with \$2M being in our certificate of deposit and any remainder excess funds in our money market account.

Director's Report

Carter stated that we received the Washington State Department of Commerce Contract for the \$727,000 for the design and buildout of the Scale House Market and Kitchen.

Carter shared the layout of the partnership building on the South Bay of the West side of the partnership building. Over the course of the last few months, several designs have been proposed with varying potential tenants in mind. However, Carter proposed that we consider building out sections as needed, instead of building everything at once. The current layout proposed shows eight offices with a small conference room. This would also allow us to maintain space for other options.

Motion Miller/Shrauger to authorize moving forward with an Economics study in the Southernmost Bay in the West Wing of the Partnership Building. Motion carried.

Carter provided a legislative update and shared that she's scheduled to attend a session on the 24th or 25th of this month to discuss the district's request for fire recovery funds, and funds to complete exterior and landscaping construction for the Scale House Market and Kitchen at the request of Senator Padden and Representative Schmit.

Carter shared that she recently formed a new partnership with the U-District PDA, which is our cooperating neighborhood district. They will be applying for a climate grant in November and have asked for the district's input, expertise, and potential partnership in their Urban Planning Effort.

Carter reported that our legal counsel is seeking the board's decision on how to proceed with the litigation against the named property owner at 4248 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212. After discussion, the board shared their recommendations, which Carter will take back to our legal counsel.

Carter shared that we are working with Integrant, a local company that does grant writing, post-award management as well as capital campaigning.

Carter informed the board and attendees that she and James received a letter of resignation from longtime board member, Jerry Scheele. Scheele is willing to serve on the board for the next few months as we work through the transition and appointment process.

Governance Culture

WSCC Report:

Baden thanked Scheele for his years of service and shared that his position will need to be filled in a mid-term appointment election. Baden walked us through the next steps, including timelines, and noted that it is the district's responsibility to inform the public of the open position. From there, the commission may conduct interviews with potential appointees before Commissioner Cochran makes his recommendation at a Commission Meeting.

Staff Reports

Davis, Program Manager of the Forestry Department, shared some information about the upcoming Inland Tree Conference. He also reported that the Forestry Department has several Firewise workshops scheduled over the next upcoming months. They continue to provide technical assistance both in the Firewise and forestry health realm to the landowners of Spokane County.

Cunningham has been busy with routine duties in the Ponderosa and Aspen buildings and at The Nest.

Gonzalez reported that she returned from the PNDSA Conference in Kennewick where she attended an advanced soil health day. She looks forward to Inland Tree Conference this week as she and the forestry department have put together a great lineup of speakers and vendors.

Turntine stated that with the news of Scheele's resignation came the opportunity for SCD to look at our policies for interim appointments and mid-term elections. She shared the proposed policy drafted for the SCD regarding mid-term elections, which was discussed and will be brought back to the board next month.

As far as the mid-interim appointment is concerned, the district will advertise a legal notice on January 12th and January 18th, 2024. This will allow interested parties until February 12, 2024 to apply so that the commission's recommendation can be announced during the Commission's March meeting.

Close of Meeting

Correspondence & Announcements

January 11-12, 2024, Inland Tree Conference

The Washington Conservation Commission Meeting schedule has been released and are as follows:

- January 18, 2024, at the Whatcom County CD
- March 21-22, 2024, at the Mason County CD
- May 14-16, 2024, at the Palouse County CD
- July meeting at the Clark County CD (date TBD)
- September meeting at the Okanagan County CD (date TBD)

Reading of the Motions

Carter read the motions.

Motion Knopp/Miller to accept the Consent Agenda, including the December payables Report for \$316,225.07. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the January payables Report for \$24,279.52 Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Shrauger to authorize moving forward with an Economic study in the Southernmost Bay in the West Wing of the Partnership Building. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.
Respectfully submitted by Jessica Brown.

Randy James, Chair

Tom Miller, Vice Chair