

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Attendees

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

Supervisors attending remote: Jerry Scheele

Absent: None

Associate Supervisors: Jaime Rohrbach

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Jeannie Jesseph, Jeff Cunningham, Eric Allen

Visitors: None

Visitors attending by phone or remote: None

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 4:00 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 10, 2023, Board Agenda
- December 13, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- December 2022 Treasurer's Report
- January 2023 Payables Report

Two mistakes were found in the December 13, 2022, board meeting minutes. Jaime Rohrbach should have been listed as an Associate Supervisor, not a Visitor. The motion says to approve the consent agenda should say the December Payables Report, not the November Payables Report. Chair James announced here would not be an Executive Session as listed on the agenda.

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the January Payables Report for \$437,743.57.
Motion carried.

Shrauger verified that the financial accounts matched the bank statements.

Carter shared that last month's visitor, Jesse Johnson from the Farmer John Coalition, has been referred to the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Washington. He has been invited to speak at the next Farmer Veteran Coalition meeting.

New Business/Linkage to Community

Public Comments

None given.

Governance Culture

WSCC Update

Baden was not able to attend.

Carter attended a WSCC meeting regarding legislative activity. The budget proposal and the Governor's budget were reviewed. The WSCC is budgeted to receive a significant increase in conservation funding. It appears that the state has recognized that the voluntary approach is better than the regulatory approach to land management. Some CDs are concerned about potential obligations attached to the funding. Carter doesn't share their concern; however, labor and plant materials may be difficult to find at this short notice. She is looking forward to the opportunities that the new funding will provide. Carter and James will attend the WACD Legislative Days in February.

James and Rohrbach reported on the Tree and Landscape Conference. They both thought the conference was exceptional. The guest speakers were interesting and informative.

Financial Oversight/Review

Carter reviewed the December budget position. She noted that the financial picture improved by \$1M from May. The December budget position ended with a positive balance of \$20,809.83; however, overall we ended at a negative \$342,000. There are many other factors to remember when analyzing the negative amount. The Unpaid Invoice report shows that we have over \$350,000 owed. Rates and Charges revenue was \$111,000 less than expected because the County is behind on processing payments. SCD is still waiting on a \$123,000 payment from UofI for the sale of the small ag equipment. The City of Spokane Valley will pay \$252,000 for the pond easement. In total, SCD has \$853,000 that was owed in 2022. If you subtract the ending budget position, SCD actually ended the year with over \$500,000 to the positive. Also, over \$400,000 was paid out of pocket for the Partnership Building. The district is in a solid cash position. None of the above-mentioned outstanding payments owed were included in the 2023 budget. Carter expressed her gratitude to Ty Meyer for his work in collecting payment on two outstanding loans.

Director's Report

Carter attended the City of Spokane Valley board meeting to share the story of The Quarry and invited members to visit our property.

On January 25, Carter will ask the WA State Legislature for \$2.3 million for the Scale House. This will be a capital budget request. A lobbyist has been hired to aid with the presentation.

She is negotiating a lease contract with potential renters for a portion of the Partnership Building. Carter thinks their business is a good fit for the Quarry.

Things are going well with our tenant, The Nest. A recent fire inspection revealed the need for a few small improvements. They would like to install a wall to divide the large downstairs room. Carter requested to see a drawing before it is approved. Their contract will be amended to include the removal of the wall when they vacate the building upon request.

Carter leaves for the PNDSA conference this evening. The conference runs through Thursday.

SCD will have a booth at the Ag Expo on February 7-9 at the Spokane Convention Center. A visitor pass is available for supervisors upon request.

Cori Turntine and her new baby are doing well. The baby was born on December 30.

Jesseph reviewed the district check signing policy. Knopp requested to change the policy to say that all checks over \$25,000 must have two signatures.

Motion Knopp/Miller to change district check cashing policy to require two signatures on checks over \$25,000.
Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Allen reviewed the water resources department report. A VSP meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Jesseph spoke about the upcoming election. The deadline to apply for the elected supervisor position is February 9.

Close of Meeting

Correspondence & Announcements

January 25, 2023 Enduris Board Planning and Training, January 25 from 10:00-11:30

THURSDAY, February 9, 2023 SCD Board Meeting at 4:00

February 8 & 9, 2023 Legislative Days in Olympia

February 10-15, 2023 NACD Conference in New Orleans

Reading of the Motions

Jesseph read the motions.

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Motion carried.

Motion Knopp/Miller to change district check cashing policy to require two signatures on checks over \$25,000.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeannie Jesseph

Randy James, Chair

Tom Miller, Vice Chair