

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Attendees

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

Attending by phone: Jerry Scheele

Absent: None

Associate Supervisors: Chris Mahelona

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine, Hilary Sepulveda, Jeannie Jesseph, Jess Brown, Jeff Cunningham, Walt Edelen, Matt Stewart

Visitors: Jeff Schibel with WACD, Mike Baden with WSCC, and Friend of the Quarry Scott Noble

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 12:00pm 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:

- August 15, 2023, Board Agenda
- July 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- July 2023 Treasurer's Report
- August 2023 Payables Report

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the August Payables Report for \$153,999.87. Motion carried.

Shrauger verified that the financial accounts matched the bank statements.

New Business/Linkage to Community

Scott Noble, a seven-year resident of Spokane whose family has been farming in the area for 85 years attended the meeting as constituent who would like to learn more about the Spokane Conservation District. Noble has attended many SCD events and is a Friend of the Quarry, is a member of the IADA, a beekeeper, part of the Master Gardener program, and is the incoming President of our local Trout Unlimited chapter.

Governance Culture

WSCC Report: None

WACD Partner Report

Jeff Schibel, Northeast Washington Area Director, with the WACD, shared that Heather Went has been hired as the Director of Development and Engagement. The WACD annual meeting will take place in November in Wenatchee. Schibel stated that the Plants Material Center took in \$1.8

million in sales last year, which was a record. He shared that the price of plants is expected to rise 10% next year and that talks of expanding the PMC have been tabled for the time being.

Public Comments: None

Financial Report:

Turntine presented a budget update at the annual Board Planning Session prior to the board meeting. This update included an amendment to the SCD 2023 budget with the most notable change being an increase to the Hangman Creek Riparian Pilot Program Grant revenue in the amount of \$2.7 Million.

Motion Knopp/Shrauger to approve the 2023 budget amendment as written. Motion carried.

Approval is needed for the 2023 WSCC Grant Implementation addendum. Our original award was for \$128,935 of which \$12,500 was used for basic allocation with the remainder allocated for staffing, technical assistance and implementation of water resource, forestry, soil health and environmental education projects.

We were awarded an additional \$7,500 of which \$2,500 is for Turntine to serve on the local government advisory committee, for continued coordination of the Springbrook user group, and to form quarterly meetings for conservation district finance managers. The remaining \$5,000 has been awarded as sponsorship of the upcoming Farm and Food Symposium.

Motion Knopp/Miller to approve the addendum to the WSCC grant implementation funds. Motion carried.

Turntine shared that we are required to establish a resolution for our cost-share and cooperator labor rates. Turntine presented Resolution AD07.11.23 which allows for a cost share rate of up to 100% to be utilized and landowner labor rates to be set at \$25 per hour for adults and Washington State's minimum wage rate to be utilized for minors.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the resolution AD07.11.23 as written. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Fundraising and capital campaigning efforts for the Scale House Market and Kitchen continue to be a major focus for Carter. Carter shared that three Campus Open House opportunities are scheduled for August 10th, 31st, and September 14th. Elected officials at the local and state levels have been invited to visit the campus in-person, outside of session. Senator Padden and Representative Christian attended the August 10th event. They expressed their support of the district's work in the community and shared their approval of the proposed event center in the Aspen building.

Carter invited all available Board members to attend the upcoming Open Houses and thanked our crew for beautifying the campus, particularly near the Scale House, in preparation for these events.

Our new tenants and partners, Washinton State University's Small Business Development Center, will move into the Aspen building on September 1, 2023.

Carter shared that the Campus Strategic Summit will begin September 20th, focusing on a comprehensive look at the campus. This will be a three-day Summit, and Carter will share the agenda and schedule with the Board and SCD staff as more information becomes available.

Carter was approached by the Carnhope Irrigation District, who have identified the SCD's campus as a potential site for a water reservoir, as the CID does not currently have the land required for an appropriately sized reservoir to serve their growing population. Carter will continue the conversation with the CID at an August 22nd meeting, and invited board member Tom Miller to attend.

Carter circled back to the Land Acknowledgement that Selcho shared at the July Board meeting. Chair James expressed his wish to add language acknowledging that the Indigenous Peoples were the first scientists, botanists, naturalists, conservationists, and healers. This language was added to the Acknowledgment and Carter then shared this with the Kalispell Tribe for input, who expressed their support. Carter asked the board if they would like the SCD to adopt this Indigenous Land Acknowledgment that would stand alongside our Mission Statement and Values. Chair James urged the Board to give this thought and consideration, stressing that the addition should be done in a meaningful way by finding connections to our work and contributions. It was decided that the Board would like to bring this back in September, allowing time for further consideration and the opportunity to propose any changes to the Acknowledgement.

Staff Reports

Edelen shared a Water Resources update as they have been very busy with several projects this summer. The Little Hangman Creek project is expected to conclude within the month. This project encompassed 4,000 linear feet of stream and incorporated 20 acres of riparian restoration. Work will continue at the Hangman Creek Riparian Pilot Program sites, over 170 acres of riparian restoration, through October. Edelen shared that the project has been deemed such a success by the Department of Ecology they have incorporated this type of project in the 319 Centennial Grant Program.

New and upcoming projects for the WR Department include the 3F2P fish barrier correction at Blanchard Creek; Dartford Creek, which will utilize dimensional wood to bring up water levels; and Deadman Creek, a riparian project. Edelen also shared that he's called a meeting to be held next week with several agencies to discuss the problems at Marshall Creek.

Cunningham stated he's been working to provide a smooth welcome for the WSU Small Business Development Center, including access for employees, an owner's walkthrough, lighting controls, and lock schedules.

Stewart provided a Forestry update, reporting that they are collecting pinecones, specifically larch, for upcoming tree sale needs. He shared that Avista has committed \$5,000 to implement a demonstration site at the entrance to our campus, showcasing the ideal materials to be planted under utility lines. Stewart stated materials will include rocks, logs, and native plants and trees.

Sepulveda shared that next week we will be hosting the River City Youth Ops to learn about jobs in conservation, agriculture, and forestry. On August 26th Dryland Revival will host a regenerative plant

propagation workshop at the Quarry. Forestry Field Day is scheduled for October and fall Friends of the Quarry events will be scheduled soon. The Farm and Food Symposium is set for November 15-16th with three title sponsors, and planning continues for the Inland Tree Conference in January.

Sepulveda reported that she's representing the SCD on the environmental stewardship sub-committee for the Spokane Expo 50, a citywide nine-week celebration from 5/1/24 - 7/4/24. SCD will facilitate three events during this time frame: Willow Warriors, Tour de Farms (with all four farm corridors participating) and a Conservation Celebration at the Quarry.

Brown stated that she and Turntine will attend an upcoming record keeping workshop in September and that she will be doing a deep dive on asset inventory this month.

Jesseph shared that there's an upcoming DRS Audit exit interview tomorrow. Jesseph looks forward to becoming more involved in the grant process and having regular grant meetings that will keep SCD abreast of progress and allow more support for our field crew.

Turntine reported that her recent focus has been on opportunities within the operations team. She shares with Brown joining the team, roles and responsibilities have shifted, allowing the team to revisit policies and procedures and make updates when needed so that staff may evolve and continue to develop.

Close of Meeting

Correspondence & Announcements

Carter concluded with a quote by Aldo Leopold, "Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest," which has always been the ethos of conservation districts. Carter reminds us to keep this quote in the forefront of everything that we do.

Reading of the Motions

Brown read the motions.

Motion Miller/Knopp to accept the Consent Agenda, including the August Payables Report for \$153,999.87. Motion carried.

Motion Knopp/Shrauger to approve the 2023 budget amendment as written. Motion carried.

Motion Knopp/Miller to approve the addendum to the WSCC grant implementation funds. Motion carried.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the resolution AD07.11.23 as written. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Brown.

Randy James, Chair

Tom Miller, Vice Chair