

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 12, 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, and Scott Noble (attending via Teams)

SCD Staff: Cori Turntine, Hilary Sepulveda, Jeannie Jesseph, Jess Brown, Jeff Cunningham, Randy Baker, Ty Meyer, Dan Ross, Walt Edelen, and Ben Peterson

Visitors: Bill Garry, landowner in Spokane, who previously worked for the Alaska State Parks.

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:

- December 12, 2023, Board Agenda
- November 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- November 2023 Treasurer's Report
- December 2023 Payables Report

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

New Business/Linkage to Community

Baker was introduced to the board as the newest full-time employee of the Water Resources department in the role of Riparian Program Leader. Baker's previous position at the district was field crew leader, and he was instrumental in planting and irrigating water resources projects over the summer and through fall.

Spokane County resident and landowner, Bill Garry, was introduced. Garry was in attendance as he wanted to learn more about the projects the district is involved in.

Governance Culture

WSCC Report: None

Public Comments: None

Financial Report:

Turntine shared the final iteration of the proposed 2024 budget, delving into each category and any

changes. Overall, the proposed 2024 budget projects a surplus at the end of the year in the amount of \$184,327.40.

Motion Miller/Knopp to approve the 2024 proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.

The 2024 meeting schedule was dispersed for review via email prior to the board meeting. There were no objections to the proposed schedule, which included a Spring Tune-Up Session and Annual Planning Session.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to accept the 2024 Meeting Schedule as written. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Turntine provided a director's report on Carter's behalf. Associated Industries, who will be assisting the district with some HR needs, has proposed a trade of services. In exchange for executive membership, Associated Industries would like to use the Scheele Training Room to hold four meetings/training sessions per year. The executive membership includes HR and Legal support for HR related issues, as well as policy, handbook, and training resources.

Turntine shared an update regarding the vacant space in the Aspen building. We have a couple of entities that are interested in this space, including Associated Industries and NRCS. Regarding the Aspen building, she reported that for Numerica to loan the cost of tenant improvements for the build-out for the Aspen building, they would need to see evidence of signed leases and/or letters of intent to occupy.

Turntine reported that Carter is engaging with legal counsel regarding the relationship between Four Roots, Spokane Conservation District, and the Scale House Market and Kitchen. In addition to this, we are moving forward with finalizing designs and working with the engineering team. An Ad-Hoc team comprising of JRP consultants, AHBL, Associate Supervisor Scott Noble, Olson Projects, SCD, and Four Root has been created for the continuation of planning for SHMK. Additionally, Noble has introduced Carter to a former Microsoft Executive who is interested in volunteering time and expertise to build-out the technology and operations piece with the SHMK.

Turntine reminded the board about the upcoming NACD annual conference, which is to be held in February and reiterated to the board that their deadline to commit to the conference is December 15, 2023.

Turntine shared that Jerry Scheele was awarded the inaugural 'Creating a Legacy' Award from the Washington State Conservation Society. Scheele has been involved in several committees at both local and state levels and has dedicated time and efforts to the state conservation group, including the 'Leaving a Legacy' program.

Staff Reports

Ross, with Water Resources, presented the 2023 Water Resources Projects, highlighting the Little Hangman Creek Restoration and Blanchard Creek Fish Passage Project.

Cunningham has been busy with the 2024 rates and charges certification reporting as he must have

this to the assessor's office by the end of the year.

Peterson shared that the Forestry Team's November was filled with HIZ Cost-Share contracts and finishing post-fire technical assistance visits.

Sepulveda reported that the Farm and Food Symposium was very successful! She is busy planning for the next event, Inland Tree Conference, which will be held at the CenterPlace on January 11-12th, 2024. Other notable activities over the month include creating the Tree Sale Store, promoting upcoming events, the SHMK capital campaign, and she was happy to report that the SCD has contracted with The Woodshop for a master marketing plan to help us share our stories.

Jesseph stated that much of her time has been preparing for year-end and new-year reporting, including PEBB and the IRS.

Baker shared that he's been busy learning the back end of water resources, and Ross chimed in that Baker is picking up on systems and projects very quickly.

Meyer reported that since the meeting in September, the PNW Collaborative has been meeting regularly. Meyer stated that he's happy to have Alex on board to help with bio-farming, regenerative agriculture, and economic development.

Close of Meeting

Correspondence & Announcements

January 11-12, 2024, Inland Tree Conference

Reading of the Motions

Brown 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 approve the 2024 proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.

Motion Shrauger/Miller to accept the 2024 meeting schedule as written. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Brown.

Randy James, Chair

Tom Miller, Vice Chair