

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Attendees

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

Supervisors attending virtually: None

Absent: None

Associate Supervisors: Jaime Rohrbach attended virtually

SCD Staff: Vicki Carter, Cori Turntine, Jeannie Jesseph, Jeff Cunningham, Hilary Sepulveda, Charlie Peterson

Guests: Aubrey Hoxie, NRCS East Area Conservationist

Mike Baden, WA Conservation Commission (WCCC)

Deanna Willman, legal counsel for SCD

Opening of Meeting

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

Chair Scheele called the meeting to order at 4:03 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:

- February 8, 2022, Board Agenda
- January 11, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- January 2022 Treasurer's Report
- February 2022 Payables Report

Chair Scheele added an Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to enforcement action or litigation will begin at approximately 5:00 pm.

Motion James/Shrauger to accept the Consent Agenda, including the February Payables Report in the amount of \$644,631.30. Motion carried.

Shrauger asked about the ending balance in Numerica account. Staff verified the balance with the Numerica bank statement for January. Shrauger verified that the financial accounts balanced with the bank statements.

New Business/Linkage to Community

Scheele Introduced the new NRCS East Area Conservationist, Aubrey Hoxie. She has many years of experience in the conservation field and is familiar with several SCD staff members through her conservation work in Idaho. Each meeting attendee introduced themselves and shared their involvement with conservation.

Carter/Scheele presented Miller with the WACD 10-year award in recognition of his service on the SCD Board and thanked him for his involvement.

WSCC Report

Baden announced that Chris Pettit was appointed as the new Executive Director and will start work on March 15.

There were two election bills introduced this legislative session. HB 1652 was created from the efforts of the Joint Committee on Elections. Along with other CD election changes, this bill would allow CDs to choose to be on the general ballot and change Supervisor positions to a 4-year term. King County CD introduced HB 1910 with no support or approval from WACD. This bill requires that all CDs be on the general ballot without providing a way to pay the expense. HB 1652 moved out of committee with a few amendments. HB 1910 did not move forward.

Additional NRI funds are available to each district.

The annual WSCC CAAP report will be due soon. Mike will work with Cori and Jeannie on submission.

Scheele asked the board what they thought of the proposed amendments to HB 1652. They expressed concern regarding the potential personal asset disclosure, especially since the Supervisor position is completely voluntary. Mike clarified it would be a document managed by the WSCC and would not be as extensive as the PFD required by elected officials.

Governance Culture

Financial Oversight/Review

Turntine reviewed the budget position for the first month of 2022. Expenditures exceeded revenue in January. There were a lot of construction expenses, but the CERB grant has refunded 75% of these costs.

A large Dept. of Ecology payment was made this month. The Assessment revenue was lower than anticipated. The first day of tree sale brought in \$27,000.00!

Funds were moved from the state LGIP account to the Spokane County SCIP account. SCD has applied to Spokane County for a low interest loan to cover construction costs.

SAO Audit Report

The first review of the 2020 audit has been completed. The auditor didn't find anything significant to comment on. Turntine has done a fantastic job of overseeing SCD financials!

Director's Discussion

Carter has been in contact with the owner of Intrinium to discuss costs incurred on their behalf. He has a colleague who works with dental equipment that may be interested in the office space. Our realtor, Tim Kestell, will host a commercial broker meeting to generate interest in leasing space in the new building.

Carter has been talking with SCD partners about developing a portion of the new facility into a Conference Center. She has also been talking with Spokane Art Grant Awards, SAGA, about a grant to have murals painted on the long house. A RCO grant is opening up for trail building and signage. Construction on the new building is set to conclude by the end of May. Carter invited the supervisors to take a tour of the new building on April 12 before the board meeting begins.

Two applicants for the Quarry Stewardship position have been interviewed. They both were so impressive that a second position has been created. Both of these positions are seasonal. The Forestry department is

looking forward to being able to get big projects done this year with the help of these new employees.

Discussions continue with the City of Spokane Valley regarding the value of the right-of-way they need in the corner of our property. Realtor Tim Kestell is working on creating supporting documentation to provide a fair price.

The Master Gardeners are making plans to install a new greenhouse on our property. Vicki will be working with them and the COSV regarding the location and permits.

Carter has begun meeting with staff members individually to talk about goals. She wants the managers to take a personality type test or strength assessment to help build communication skills.

The Spokane Conservation District is the proud owner of the Farmed Smart trademark. The Production Ag department is working hard on plans to grow the value of the trademark to inspire farmers to improve farming practices.

The SCD booth at the Ag Expo this year had farmers coming to ask about new farming practices. Some thanked SCD saying we are the only one who is listening to their farming concerns and desires.

Staff Reports

Sepulveda said Tree Sale has 823 orders as of February 8, 2022. Over 83,775 seedlings have been sold. There will be a surplus sale in April if there are any left-over items. This year 220 new individuals have subscribed to our Tree Sale list. This year's tree sale is entirely online for the first time. She created a donation option on the tree sale order form for the Community Canopy Program that has raised \$240. Rick Clark is booked to be a guest speaker at this year's Farm and Food Expo.

The Rocks to Roots podcast will start a new season in the next few weeks.

2022 Election Update

Jesseph announced that only one candidate filed to be elected to the position of SCD Supervisor, Jaki Shrauger. The deadline to request a ballot is February 15. She has reached out to Spokane County Elections to count the ballots. The election deadline is March 8, 2022.

Executive Session

The regularly scheduled board meeting recessed at 5:02. The Executive Session began at 5:04. The Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to enforcement action or litigation. It was estimated to take 20 minutes. At 5:30 the regular board meeting reconvened.

Board Planning/Training

Carter would like to research Capital Campaign fundraising as a board planning topic.

Knopp talked about researching typical salary ranges for staff positions. Carter had worked on a Salary Banding project a few years back that she will revisit and report back to the board.

Operational Expectations

Correspondence & Announcements

February 12-16 – NACD Annual Meeting

March 8 – SCD Board Meeting & Election Closes

March 11 – SCD Election Results & Preliminary Announcement

Closing of Meeting

Reading of the Motions

Jesseph read the motions.

Motion James/Shrauger to accept the Consent Agenda, including the February Payables Report in the amount of \$644,631.30. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeannie Jesseph

Gerald A Scheele, Chair

Randy James, Member