

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024

Attending: Supervisors: Ron Hennings, Branden Spencer, Gary Cook; Staff: Cara Hulce; Guest: Mike Baden (WSSC)

The meeting was called to order by Ron Hennings at 7:46 p.m.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/ACD Manager

- **Mike Baden, WSSC**
 - SCC fiscal staff is preparing to submit the budget request for next biennium to the Governor's office within the next couple weeks.
 - The Sustainable Farms & Fields grant awards should be announced soon.

- **Cara Hulce, ACD**
 - A week before CRP plans were due to FSA NRCS emailed Cara to inform her that the district was now required to sign CRP plans. In the past CD's were given the option to waive their signature which ACD has done, but FSA policy changed and now requires that CDs must sign or producers cannot get contracts. As the district is not involved in the planning process or contract execution Cara didn't feel comfortable or find it logical that the district be mandated to sign, however, with no time to dispute the issue she went ahead and signed the plans so producers could get their contracts.
Mike Baden said other CD also had issue with this new requirement as well as the approach and communication processes that have been used by FSA lately. SCC is committed to helping find a resolution to this issue before the next round of plans must be finalized and has let FSA know it's a priority. He believes several partners are on board and wouldn't be surprised to see a resolution pop up at the state WACD meeting. He's hopeful for a positive change.
 - D. Harder's cross fencing project is finished. Spencer is finishing up installing his pumping plant. J Harder is working on finishing installation of his watering facility.
 - The direct seed grant that ACD is partners on with Lincoln County CD (LCCD) has been extended to June 2025. Two of three ACD participants are still in the program and finishing their second seeding. LCCD said they're planning to apply for another direct seed grant from DOE next year and Cara let them know ACD is interested in continuing the partnership.

Minutes: Branden moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 20, 2024. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Minutes: Branden moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 11, 2024. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: Gary moved to approve the financial report for June 2024 showing end balances of \$119,307.38 (money market) and \$160,020.26 (checking), and to approve all checks numbered 14271 - 14276 and all ACH/EFT transactions from June 1 – June 30, 2024. Total deductions were \$118,497.74 and liability was \$1,984.40. Branden seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: Branden moved to approve the financial report for July 2024 showing end balances of \$119,705.61 (money market) and \$174,217.48 (checking), and to approve all checks numbered 14277 - 14278 and all ACH/EFT transactions from July 1 – July 31, 2024. Total deductions were \$39,054.71 and liability was \$2,052.40. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- The board reviewed WACD dues.

Branden moved to approve the WACD dues for FY25. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

- The board reviewed the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) MOU and discussed membership.

Branden moved to approve the WCS MOU, designating Cara to vote on behalf of the district, and pay the membership. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

- The locks on the front and back doors of the office aren't working well so Cara will reach out to Rankin to get them replaced.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm by Ron Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm.