

Adams Conservation District
118 East Main Ave., Ritzville, WA 99169
Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2025

Attending: Supervisors: Curtis Hennings, Branden Spencer, Bryce Esser, Gary Cook; Staff: Cara Hulce; WSCC: Mike Baden

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Hennings at 7:37 p.m.

Reports from Guests/Partner Agencies/ACD Manager

- **Mike Baden, WSCC**
 - Biennial report is due by the end of August.
 - Long range plan update is due this year.
 - Mike provided an update on grant funding. They're working on supplemental budget requests for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) and Forest Health.
 - The election cost report showed putting districts on the general ballot would significantly increase district costs.
- **Cara Hulce, ACD**
 - We're working on cultural review and getting cost estimates for McRae's project. Gathering information on potential projects for other landowners. Potential projects include virtual fencing, pollinator field borders, and irrigation assistance.
 - All SCC grants for FY24-25 closed out at the end of June. New IM & NRI grants opened July 1st.
 - Submitted five Sustainable Farms & Fields (SFF) grant applications.

Minutes: Branden moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 19, 2025. Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financial Report: Branden moved to approve the financial report for June 2025 showing end balances of \$123,358.17 (money market) and \$158,414.28 (checking), and to approve check number 14288 and all ACH/EFT transactions from June 1 – June 30, 2025. Total deductions were \$35,135.26 and liability was \$2,008.80. Bryce seconded the motion; motion passed.

Old Business:

- The board discussed partnering with LCCD on another DOE water quality grant for assistance with direct seeding. Cara will follow up with LCCD to let them know ACD is interested in continuing the partnership.
- FSA is still requiring districts to sign CRP plans. WACD is drafting a letter with an attorney that districts can send to FSA documenting their position on such requirement.
- The board recommended a new person to report precipitation for the Carico Hills area. Cara will follow up.
- Branden mentioned seeking funding for soil moisture monitoring equipment. Cara will investigate grant options and requested he send her an estimated cost breakdown for the project with a brief write up explaining need for equipment.

- Curtis asked about assistance for fixing an old sediment retention structure. Cara will check if that's still an eligible practice and/or what options might be available to address the resource concern.

New Business:

- The board discussed renewing the WA Conservation Society (WCS) membership for another year.

Gary moved to approve paying the WCS membership dues and designating Cara to vote on behalf of the board. Branden seconded the motion; motion passed.

- The board discussed having Columbia Basin CD (CBCD) staff manage an FFA soil judging contest in Adams CD (ACD) on behalf of ACD. They liked the idea and suggested locations they thought the contest could be held. Cara will follow up with Dinah at CBCD on contest details and put together an ILA.

- The board reviewed Umpqua's new banking rates and voiced displeasure with its online platform.

Branden moved to have Cara research banking options at Spokane Teachers Credit Union (STCU). Bryce seconded the motion; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm by Curtis Hennings.

Minutes approved by: _____ Date: _____

Minutes prepared by: _____ Date: _____

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025 at 7:30 pm.