

Asotin County Conservation District
Thursday, February 11th, 2010
Board Meeting Minutes
Prepared By: Pat Worle

Chairman Keith Ausman called the Board Meeting, held at the District Office, to order at 6:30 p.m. Supervisors present were Jerry Hendrickson, Rich Witters, Rod Hostetler and Ron Scheibe. Attending were: Ken Mills (WACC), Nelle Murray (Asotin Weed Board), Jim Schroeder and Courtney Smith (NRCS).
ACCD Staff: Casey Scott and Pat Worle

Minutes:

The minutes of the January 21, 2010 Board Meeting were reviewed. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Ron Scheibe seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2010 Board Meeting, as presented.*

Motion Carried.

Financial Reports:

*Jerry Hendrickson moved and Ron Scheibe seconded to approve checks #1370 to #1373 and #9426 to #9453 for \$ 54,308.97. **Motion Carried.** The Board approved the financial reports and compensated absences.*

Ken Mills, WACC Coordinated Resource Management Task Force:

Ken thanked the District for being good hosts for the WACC Coordinated Resource Manager Task Force tour three years ago. He then provided the Board with information about Coordinated Resource Management (CRM). The task force works with stakeholders on a local level to coordinate efforts, skills and tools. Ken is here to see if the Asotin CD District would be interested in participating. He suggested that several of the Districts in the southeast part of Washington with similar circumstances might work together during the CRP transition. The CRM would like to help Districts organize efforts to find direct seed options, to rent or share equipment and to put landowners and producers together. Jerry mentioned that this might be a topic for the Cluster Engineering Group to explore since it's already organized. Ken agreed and said that the District, Weed Board, Extension Office, NRCS and other entities might be able to work together specifically with CRP landowners whose property will be coming out. Landowners are struggling with what to do and looking for options. A group that would help them share ideas would be a good thing to encourage. The Board agreed that they would like to participate and suggested that CRM (Ken) work with Sandy to contact Garfield County because they have similar issues. Jerry will attend a Garfield County Board Meeting with Ken to propose a joint meeting and invite landowners, agencies and interested individuals to share ideas. Ken thinks there would be an attendance of 36-40 at this kind of meeting in our area. The Board would like this to be brought up at our Annual Meeting in March as well. It was mentioned that some of the Counties like Douglas who have been out of CRP for about a year might have some suggestions. The Asotin County Courthouse was suggested as a good location to hold a meeting. Nelle will check on the availability of the Courthouse and let the District know. The Board felt that this process has potential and may help people in the County make decisions about their future after CRP.

Correspondence: None

Calendars and Events:

The employee schedules were reviewed. Preparing for the Annual Meeting on March 4th continues. Jerry asked that Megan contact the Master Gardeners about participating in the Annual Tree Sale.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

Conservation Plan:

1. **Gerald Halsey** – a CCRP Conservation Plan for fencing, tree planting, water development, pipeline and trough. *Ron Scheibe moved and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve Gerald Halsey's CCRP Conservation Plan. Motion Carried.*

District Manager Report: No Report

Technician Reports:

Casey gave the Board a CREP Update – there are a total of 33 contracts including 2 Whitman County contracts. Of those 33, there are 11 contracts still eligible to receive maintenance reimbursement. Of those 11, there are 3 contracts that have not started using maintenance money. In addition to those 11, there is 1 contract that has maintenance money extended through 2010 for tree watering only. In 2009, 3 new contracts were signed and approved. In 2009, 2 CCRP contracts were signed and approved. Casey is currently working with the plans for 6 more contracts to potentially be approved and talking with 7 other landowners who have shown some interest.

Mike was unable to attend due to illness but had prepared a full report which included the ACCD Forestry Cost-Share Practices descriptions for the Board's review. He reported that the shaded fuel break on West Mountain road is still a go with field work to begin after landowners sign their approval forms. Money is available now for a second fuel break on Grouse Flats or to expand W. Mountain Road. Joe Weeks (DNR) has not yet sent the contract back for the Grant but he did send a clarification on the Davis-Bacon wages which is included in Mike's report. Mike continues to work on the Firewise assessments but has found out first hand that when Anatone has 18 inches of snow, it's not a good time to do inspections. He has 8 more to do and will probably have them as he contacts small landowners with the forestry cost-share program.

NRCS Report:

Courtney is currently working on construction projects in the County. He looked at Mike Wolf's spring development – no water there. Jim said there was a good EQIP sign-up with 12 applications for 2010. They are doing some planning and hope to have 6-8 approved soon.

Review of Motions:

1. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Ron Scheibe seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2010 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion Carried.*
2. *Jerry Hendrickson moved and Ron Scheibe seconded to approve checks #1370 to #1373 and #9426 to #9453 for \$ 54,308.97. Motion Carried. The Board approved the financial reports and compensated absences.*
3. *Ron Scheibe moved and Jerry Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve Gerald Halsey's CCRP Conservation Plan. Motion Carried.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Chairman Keith Ausman.

Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, February 25th, 2010
6:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN SIGN

DATE

SUPERVISOR SIGN

DATE