

SOUTH DOUGLAS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING
May 3, 2021

Via Conference Call

Meeting was called to order 7:00 p.m. Present were Lindsey Morrison, Jeff Rock, Eileen Bone, Mike Lesky, Carolyn Kelly, Joe Sprauer, Carol Cowling, Bob Nansel – NRCS, Mike Baden – WCC, Rachel McClure – Doc Hastings Office.

April meeting minutes were approved. **Motion:** Lindsey/Mike/Passed
Financial statements and bills to be paid submitted. **Motion:** Lindsey/Jeff/Passed.
(Vouchers 4420-4428 = \$2276.39)

NRCS Report – NRCS Report – Bob updated us on several programs. There will be a new forester up in the Okanogan field office. The Pheasants Forever position in Waterville is open again as Amanda Phillips moved into the open NRCS Soil Conservationist position. Joe Sprauer signed several NRCS contracts for SDCD, including EQIP on expired CRP contracts. Local Working group evening meeting is scheduled June 8, 6:00 to 7:30 pm; an opportunity to discuss NCW's priorities for future NRCS programs.

WCC Report – Mike Baden said the new budget is favorable to CDs. Also funding for tech assistance and fire recovery. The Base Budget for CDs had no reduction.

Old Business

2021 Annual Plan, as presented, accepted. **Motion:** Jeff/Mike/passed.

VSP update – Carolyn had applied for a position on the VSP working committee, but no previous response from the Do Co Commissioners. They have now said that the current working group is satisfactory to them. And will not appoint Carolyn as officially on the Working Group, although she is now the South Douglas CD rep. Jeff Rock will remain as a farmer.

Discussion of the effectiveness of the VSP program in Douglas County. There have been 5 VSP coordinators since its beginning in 2015. The purpose is to serve local farmers on land stewardship, but not sure what has been accomplished on the ground.

CWMA – Ryan (FC) and Carolyn secured a grant for weed mapping in Douglas County. Farmers along Douglas Creek will be targeted. Although it does cross CD borders, this should be covered in our MOA, as a joint project.

New Business

Cost Share Projects

1. Jeff Smoke erosion control and repair. In process
2. Justin Grillo Soil Erosion project. In process
3. Jeff Rock erosion control and repair. In process
4. Thomas Jirgensohn – Fancher Heights. Looking at this project, it is not something we want to cost share at this time. The proximity of shrub steppe near the property, other vegetation around the house and difficulty of fighting fire if it did occur are all factors that finalizes this decision. The owner is attempting to be Firewise.
5. Aguilar Cost Share project – Wildlife habitat in East Wenatchee. Good maps and description. **Motion:** Jeff/Lindsey/passed. Funding 1793 @ 75% = 1345. Ongoing.
6. Fuels reduction on Badger Mountain. More info at next meeting.
7. Mike Lesky was wondering about the district buying a range drill for areas affected by fire. He will get more info.

Waterville School Biocontrol project – Mia Thomsen has interest in developing this program for her FFA students. Raising, releasing and monitoring are all integral parts of this project. Good education for students and general public. Mike Lesky had gone to BiMart, who was out of the greenhouses and not expected to receive any more this season. We could purchase a more substantial greenhouse that SD would own. It would address a natural resource concern of noxious weeds, outlined in our annual and five-year plan.

Field Trip in July 17 at 9:00a.m. Meet at Badger Mtn Ski Hill parking lot. Topics will be forest health and fuels reduction. Meeting adjourned 8:46 p.m.