

**Ferry Conservation District
Special Board Meeting MINUTES: 2/22/2023**

Meeting Start – 3:05 pm

In attendance USDA Service Center: Eric Bracken (on phone), Chair; Dave Konz, Vice Chair; Jim Rochelle, Board Supervisor; Joann Marshall, Board Supervisor; Charlotte Coombes, Board Supervisor Auditor; Dave Hedrick, FCD District Manager; Candy Roman , Staff; Mckenzi Coleman, Staff.

In attendance via “GoToMeeting,”: None

Official Action Items			
Motion	Motion made by:	Motioned seconded by:	Decision
Motion to approve agenda	Charlotte Coombes	Jim Rochelle	Carried
Motion to name Jim Rochelle as the new Chair, and Dave Konz as the Vice Chair. And revisit every February	Charlotte Coombes	Joann Marshall	Carried
Motion to approve Dec 7, 2022 minutes , Jan 25, 2023 minutes, Feb 1, 2023 special meeting minutes.	Jim Rochelle	Joann Marshall	Carried
Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report and Accounts Payable December, 2022/January 2023.	Charlotte Coombes	Dave Konz	Carried
Warrants to Pay: 3204-3227 Total \$14,538.24 EFT’s: \$6,313.43. Warrants to Pay: 3228-3244 Total \$20,647.46 EFT’s \$4,484.77. For Dec 8, 2022 -Feb 22, 2023	Charlotte Coombes	Jim Rochelle	Carried
Staff Compensation and Review policy, Set to do annually, during the month of May.	Charlotte Coombes	Dave Konz	Carried
NACD grant resolution 2023-003 to apply for grant	Charlotte Coombes	Dave Konz	Carried
Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 PM			

Open Public Testimony

None

Partner Reports : None.

Operations Report

Dave Hedrick

Implementation Grant (keeping the doors open)	Original Amount	\$117,823.00 (100%)
	Amount Paid Through 1/31/23	\$64,751.83 (55%)
	Amount Available Through 6/30/23	\$53,071.17 (45%)

We're on track with the budget. We are a month past halfway through the fiscal year and we've spent 55% of our budget. We've averaged \$9,250/month through the first seven months and could average \$10,614/month for the rest of the year and be on track. Most of the big expenses (WACD Dues, Insurance, Software Subscriptions) were paid for in the first half of the year.

Legislative Session: The legislative session is under way with both WACD and the SCC providing frequent updates you can sign up for. There is likely going to be a study of the cost of CD elections done by the legislature with the report due before the session next year. I testified and said that the Ferry CD would not be able to afford a general ballot election. This is being driven by the King County CD and is probably not going away. Bills that may affect us are still alive such as the Riparian Buffer bill that is bipartisan and supported by the tribes but not the Governor's office, which is odd. It still looks like the Conservation Commission is in for a big funding increase and will be in charge of several new programs

Curlew Lake Ecology Grant: We were able to do one round of water sampling and made some interesting discoveries. First, the ice is thick enough that I didn't fall through which was the thing that had most of my attention. I don't like ice but lived to tell the tale. There is also just one creek (Trout) that is not dry in the winter. We are headed out again on 2/27 to try it again. Professor Jan Boll and his graduate student, Erin Poor, came up from Pullman to check out the Curlew Lake watersheds. They will be doing an analysis of the volume of water that is coming into the lake. Mckenzi and I drove them around and it was a good learning experience for all of us.

Education: Mckenzi and I met with Mike Mcrae from the Republic School District again out at the CD property. We are planning a field day out there doing soil sampling in April. The greenhouse is in need of a little TLC but Mike was very excited about the possibilities and we are going to meet out there again with some teachers and the principal

Voluntary Stewardship Program: We had our Pesticide Credit event on 2/14 and we had ten attendees which wasn't bad for our first adventure back into in-person events. The presenters were all excellent, in particular the new silviculturist for the Colville National Forest who was there in person and talked about identifying different forest pests and diseases. We have a Two Year Report due in August which we have to tell about how implementation of the VSP plan is going. We are still developing a scope of work with Herrera Consulting for a county monitoring plan.

DNR: We met with Will Nolton from DNR about community wildfire preparedness. It was sort of an odd meeting. DNR continues to go through a reorganization and is adding staff. This has led to some uncertainty about who is doing what and makes it difficult for partners like us. They are going to get this figured out and they have a lot of money for things like thinning and mastication. They are still trying to sort out who is in charge of what but have a good working relationship with the Okanogan CD on fire recovery/prevention so we are going to meet over there and figure out how not to reinvent the wheel.

SCC Director: This continues to be an issue. Everyone should have received an evaluation notice via email. This will be the opportunity for CDs to weigh in on how his performance is affecting districts. Some of the boards on the west side have asked that he not attend their events or be around their employees. There are also some directions he's going on policy that would not be good for smaller districts like ours that don't have rates and charges. Coming from

Florida where they have a more regulatory approach and conservation districts are under the Dept. of Agriculture, he doesn't seem to see the value of locally led voluntary conservation. In my opinion he was a bad hire and needs to be replaced

Upcoming Before the Next Meeting

- Start thinking about what should go into the Annual Plan of Work.
- Review Open Public Meeting Act Guidelines and New Additions.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 PM



Candy Roman, FCD District Staff



Ferry Board Member