

**Ferry Conservation District
Special Board Meeting MINUTES: 7/26/2023**

Meeting Start – 5:14 pm (Dave Hedrick)

In attendance USDA Service Center: Charlotte Coombes (on the phone) , Board Supervisor Auditor; Eric Bracken , Supervisor; Dave Hedrick, FCD District Manager; Candy Roman , Staff; Mike Baden; SCC.

Official Action Items			
Motion	Motion made by:	Motioned seconded by:	Decision
Motion to approve agenda	Eric Bracken	Charlotte Coombes	Carried
Motion to approve June 28, 2023 minutes	Eric Bracken	Joann Marshall	Carried
Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report and Accounts Payable June 2023	Charlotte Coombes	Eric Bracken	Carried
Warrants to Pay: 3334--3355 Total \$26,034.86. Efts: \$3,432.89	Charlotte Coombes	Joann Marshall	Carried
Approve Butt RCO 3F2P bridge project.	Eric Bracken	Charlotte Coombes	Carried
Approve NRI Knight Bank Stabilization at a DIP project	Eric Bracken	Charlotte Coombes	Carried
Approval Electronic signature policy	Charlotte Coombes	Eric Bracken	Carried
Approval given to give Candy Roman a \$3. per hour raise starting Aug 1, 2023	Eric Bracken	Joann Marshall	Carried
Approval given to work 32 hours per week at the 40 hour rate. Revisited Nov/Dec meeting	Eric Bracken	Joann Marshall	Carried
Meeting Adjourned at 6:48 PM	Joanne Marshall	Eric Bracken	Carried

Open Public Testimony: None.

Partner Reports: **Mike Baden SCC:** Waiting for new Director before filling position to replace Ron Shultz. Working with a consulting company with the hiring of a Director. Hope by October. SCC plans on hiring more staff. NRI grant each district has around 81K+ to apply for by the end of September. Forest Health money 5 million. 10 million for Firewise for two years. RPPP grant is out to apply for. SFF grant is on pause until early 2024. No Fire recovery money. But there is Disaster money.

Operations Report

Implementation Grant (keeping the doors open)	Original Amount	\$128,935.00
	Amount Paid Through 7/1/23	<u>\$0</u>
	Amount Available Through 6/30/24	\$128,935.00

FY24 Funding : We're off with a fresh start. There may be more for the next FY but this is what we have to work with for the year.

Curlew Lake Ecology Grant: We are continuing to sample monthly with Gordon McIntyre. We gave a presentation to the Curlew Lake Association at their annual meeting. I didn't have a whole lot of new information but we showed Mckenzi's two videos and they were a hit. The WSCC also picked up the floating wetlands video for their newsletter. More to come.

Education : We're still waiting for news on the \$400k+ USDA grant we applied for. We should know for sure in September. We are doing the kids wellness fair put on by the health department next week. We also have two Sustainable Farms and Fields grant applications in.

Voluntary Stewardship Program : I presented to the VSP State Tech Panel and Advisory Committee in Spokane on 7/13 and it went well. VSP in Ferry County has some challenges because of the lack of NRCS to be able to put projects on the ground. There are also the non-lethal wolf requirements for ranchers that have reduced agricultural viability. There have also been some issues with the SCC implementation of the program which have come to a head with a large group of CD managers meeting in Ellensburg last week to discuss some needed changes with the interim executive director. I feel like he took our concerns to heart. The good news is that the county signed the contract for another two years.

Forest Service Update: I'm a member of the Quad County Forest Group that meets every other month to get updates from the Colville National Forest and discusses issues. The Voluntary Stewardship Program has benefitted from a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant the past two years for weed spray. We hope to be able to continue that grant. CNF Supervisor Rodney Smolden retired effective 7/1 and his replacement has not been hired yet. Rod has been a lifelong friend and did a great job. He was a first-of-its-kind experiment where a local person was hired to be a forest supervisor. I think it worked out pretty well. The CNF did report that the lawsuit brought by the Kettle Range Conservation Group about a stewardship timber sale in Ferry County near the Colville Reservation line was successful and has led to the stoppage of multiple timber sales across the forest. DNR also reported that Forest Practice Permits (cutting permits) were at less than 50% of where they are normally at this time of year. Both Vaagen Bros and Boise Cascade said that these two things are going to put a lot of pressure on log supplies.

Fairgrounds Bridge: I'm working with the county and WDFW on a fix for the Fairgrounds bridge. It's a complicated project and for there to be a long-term fix I think we need to be involved. We might be able to find more funding options also.

Committees I'm On:

- Sustainable Funding (WACD): Oxymoron?
- Elections (WACD): 1 against 44

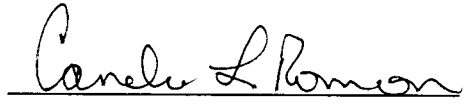
- Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) Board: Annual training event in Leavenworth.

Upcoming Before the Next Meeting:

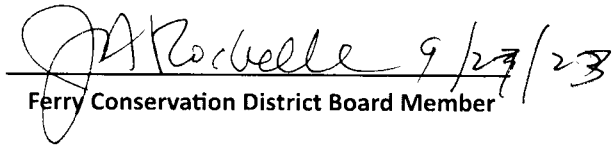
- Lake Cruise??

Dave Hedrick , District Manager

Meeting Adjourned: 6:48 PM



Candy Roman, FCD District Staff



Ferry Conservation District Board Member