



Pend Oreille Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting MINUTES: 4/18/2023

Meeting Start – 4:01 p.m.

In attendance at - **George Stuivenga**, Board Supervisor – Chair; **Randall Leestma**, Board Supervisor; **John W. Floyd**, Board Supervisor; **Jon Paul Driver**, Board Supervisor; **Mary Malone**, POC Weed Board; **Stephen Allen**, POCD admin/ed/outreach; **Mike Mumford**, Board Supervisor; **Mark Simpson**, NRCS;

In attendance via “GoToMeeting,”: **Alex Case-Cohen**, POCD District Manager; **Robert Rosencrantz**, BOCC; **Kayla Kassa**, Osborne Consulting; **Corey Brenner**, POCD Natural Resource Specialist

Official Action Items					
Motion	Motion made by:	Motioned seconded by:	Abstained	Decision	Attachment
Motion to approve agenda and take items out of order	Randall Leestma	John W. Floyd		Carried	A
Motion to approve the March regular meeting minutes	Randall Leestma	Mike Mumford		Carried	B
Motion to approve engineering supplemental funding for SCC SRF Planning and Design project	Mike Mumford	Jon Paul Driver		Carried	D,E
Motion approve Axsus as the contractor for the land grading/leveling of the Community Forest expansion project at \$12,000 with a \$5000 contingency	Mike Mumford	Jon Paul Driver		Carried	F,G
Motion approve reallocating the remaining \$12,823 of water quality management funds back into the district operations budget	Jon Paul Driver	Mike Mumford		Carried	H
Motion to approve March Treasurer’s Report	Randall Leestma	Jon Paul Driver		Carried	L
Meeting Adjourned at 6:19 PM					

Public Comment: No public comment

Partner Reports

Mark Simpson, NRCS

Mark S. noted that he is busy processing contracts and IRA applications as he reported last month. IRA is the acronym for Inflation Reduction Act. He currently has about 40 applicants. Stan gone until May, so not sure if they will get all of the applications processed; the deadline to meet is at end of month. IRA funds covering mainly forestry in Pend Oreille County. Pollinator habitat, wildlife habitat, etc., are some other examples, but does not cover everything. Producer Sandy Coehlo became newest FSA director for Pend Oreille/Spokane – she is one of two who represents Pend Oreille County. Meg Decker, member of the Newport Museum, wanted Mark to mention the museum acquired about an acre of land and the soil is not great, so she is wondering how to go forward with planting native vegetation with interpretive signage. She wants to test the soil, so he suggested she come here to the board meeting, but she will likely get ahold of POCD at some point. Alex noted she did talk to Sandy about doing a workshop in the future.

Mary Malone, POC Weed Board

Mary noted that the Weed Board hired a lead field inspector, which is a new position, year-round. They also have a new board member, Tom Pulford, covering District 1. Still looking for a Dist. 5 member. There will be a special meeting next Wednesday – the board didn't make a decision on the aquatic contractors for the flowering rush control work for this season yet. They have a lot of events coming up – calibration workshop this Friday; may have to cancel due to weather because we were going to do it outside or maybe find somewhere to do it inside without the live demo. Mike M. suggested using dye and still having the live demo outside. Mary and Loretta are putting on the next garden event next Friday, which will be a garden invasives discussion. The Neighborhood Cost Share program is in full swing – about 50 cost share applications have come in, so she has been working through those.

Mike Mumford, WACD

Mike sits on the State Conservation Commission board as a WACD as representative (president) of WACD, which during last meeting parted ways with executive director. The interim director has been there three weeks. There is a lot going on with legislative session. Mike will be attending a manager's meeting tomorrow. Mike

discussed some of the recent bank failures, noting the WACD board decided to take the excess of \$300K and put it into money market fund with Edward Jones, which reinvests the money in CDs. They will always be under the \$250K limit. They are also going to fill out an application for the Local Government Investment Pool. PMC report: Mike noted it was a record year over last, which was also a record year. Mike discussed the tax liability as a result of that. There is about 40,000 riparian plants still in the cooler, so they are going to have a cooler sale. Mike was on a leadership call this morning and Roylene said they have money coming down and are looking at a sole source contract where they would pay, for example, 100% for an employee in Pend Oreille, but that employee has to work on NRCS projects. Another idea is an agreement with a CD and the CD has to pay a 25% match, but that person doesn't have to work full time. Will be discussed at managers meeting. Could help increase staffing and do work on the ground. Alex discussed a related upcoming meeting on Friday the 28th. Mike also noted that the commission is in the process of hiring a new executive director. He said it is imperative to have CDs represented at the commission meetings. May 17th is a strategic planning meeting. Added that the board authorized staff to look at annual meeting location – typically has been 2 years on east side, 2 years on west side, etc. It was discussed that Walla Walla and Pullman might be options. If it was in Pullman or Spokane, the Idaho commission could maybe do a joint annual meeting with Washington. May have proposal in September.

Old Business

Discussion: Update from Contractors –

See attachment C. Kayla Kassa with Osborne Consultants gave an update on the LeClerc Rd stabilization project. Discussed root wads, purpose, etc. Discussed list of local native plants. Discussed drone footage they are collecting.

Action item: Engineering supplemental funding for SCC SRF planning and Design –

See attachments D, E. Alex discussed, noting there is a \$25,000 reserve. She put in a request to the Commission for an additional \$30,000 which was approved today. Kayla noted the reserve funds and additional funds would be going toward the drone survey, creating a site map with all homeowners. Any additional funding will go toward the site plans to get good, detailed plans and make them

permit worthy. Kayla said it can be spent before the June 30 deadline. Mike moved to approve the supplemental funding for the SCC SRF planning and Design, seconded by Jon Paul. Motion carried.

Action item: Select contractor for land grading/leveling for RPPP –

See attachments F, G. Alex briefly discussed expansion of Indian Creek Community Forest. Two bids from same contractor. Alex recommended Axsus \$12,000 with a \$5,000 contingency for a total of approximately \$17,000. The other contractor's bid was nearly \$35K. Discussion over the two Axsus bids and what the difference is regarding fill. Mike moved to approve Axsus as the contractor for the land grading/leveling of the Community Forest expansion project at \$12,000 with a \$5000 contingency. Randy seconded. Motion carried.

Action item: Update POCD IM addendum –

See attachments H. Alex briefly discussed reallocating remaining \$12,823 of water quality management funds back into the district operations budget. Jon Paul moved to approve the reallocation, seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

New Business

FY2024 annual plan of work – See attachments I, J. Alex noted that this will come up at the May meeting. The Board needs to reference the long-range plan for the 2024 Annual Plan of Work. Alex will present what has been accomplished and what still needs accomplished from the long-range plan. Board reviews need completed by April 28. Stephen will send email to Board.

Discussion item: USDA NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach Grant –

See attachment K. Alex discussed that she is applying for a grant for K-A education, youth education and working with smaller producers in the area. It will be proposed as a three-year timeline. Alex referenced the District mission and priorities in long-range plan. Stephen added what his vision is for the youth component. Alex discussed other funding opportunities as well.


Treasurer's Report for March – *See attachment L.* Randy moved to approve, seconded by Jon Paul. Motion carried.

Operations Report – *Alex Case-Cohen, See Attachment M.* Discussion ensued regarding website demographics.

To Do List:

- Capitalize Stan's name in the partner reports from March meeting before signature.
- The Board needs to reference the long-range plan for the 2024 Annual Plan of Work. Alex will present what has been accomplished and what still needs accomplished from the long-range plan. Board reviews need completed by April 28. Stephen will send email to Board.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:19 p.m.



Alex Case-Cohen, POCD District Manager



George Stuiivenga, POCD Board Chair