

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2018

The meeting of the Mason Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Jason Ragan at 4:02 pm.

Board Members present: Larry Boltz, Myron Ougendal, Jason Ragan and Mark Woytowich (arrived at 4:35).

Staff present: John Bolender and Jenifer Sliva.

Additional Attendees: Frank Curtin, NRCS

October 18, 2018: The minutes were reviewed and approved.

(M – Boltz, S –Ougendal, Passed – Unanimously)

October Financial Report: Myron gave the October financial report. Check numbers 18967 through 18995 including EFT's were issued in the month for the amount of \$139,906.79. The report was approved as presented.

(M-Boltz, S –Ougendal– Passed -Unanimously)

PROGRAM & STAFF UPDATES

Finance & Accounting: The 2019 budget is in the final stages. A formal discussion will take place under new business.

John Bolender, District Manager reported that we have hired a new employee, Ryan Williams to support the Habitat Program. Ryan comes to us with over 11 years' experience with Snohomish CD.

Programs:

NRCS – Frank Curtin with NRCS reported there were 5 or 6 sign ups for the EQIP program. NRCS does not anticipate any major funding changes in. Discussion took place regarding the possible impacts of NRCS programs and VSP programs and conflicts between the two. Currently NRCS cost share participants need to meet the NRSC requirements even if VSP does not require them.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Resource planning WRIA 14 – John discussed issues surrounding the WRIA 14 Watershed Enhancement and Restoration committee. The fact that the Farm Bureau has challenged the process DOE followed and had requested intervention by the Board of County Commissioners. The Washington State Farm Bureau has stated that Conservations Districts could not represent agricultural interests on the committee. DOE has stated they are not going to reconsider the process at this time and the committee would move forward as planned.

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NEW BUSINESS

Grays Harbor CD ILA – John presented a ILA between Grays Harbor CD to allow MCD to support engineering requests from GHCD. Staff recommended the board authorize the Chair to sign the ILA as the district has capacity to support the request.

(M- Woytowich, S- Boltz, Passed-Unanimously)

2019 District Budget Planning – Discussion around the 2019 District Budget took place. A proposed change that will have an impact on the District is a proposal to move employees from the current Simple IRA plan to the State of Washington Retirement system of PERS (Public Employees Retirement System). The long term benefits for the district include retention and recruitment of employees, as well as creating an incentive for all employees to contribute to their retirement. No action was taken.

Staff discussed the 2018 budget item for WACD annual dues. The board included funding in the budget, but has not yet made a decision to spend those funds. Staff discussed changes that have occurred within WACD leadership over the past two years, the hiring of a new Executive Director, and efforts to develop long-term sustainable funding for CD's. WACD's focus and priorities are better aligned with MCD values and priorities. Staff suggested the board consider paying membership dues to WACD as budgeted. The board discussed many aspects of the historical relationship between the Association and MCD. The board suggested the importance of submitting a letter with any dues payment to affirm previous concerns, while expressing general support for the new direction of the Association.

With no further business the regular meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm.