

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023

The meeting of the Mason Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Jason Ragan, Chair, at 4:01 pm.

Board Members present: Jason Ragan (via Zoom), Michael O'Day, Larry Boltz, Carmen Echeverria, and Andrea Miller

Board Members absent: None

Staff present: Evan Bauder, Nick Schneider, Justin Bennett, Margaret Kreder and Rhonda Nydegger

Members of the public present: Josh Giuntoli (SCC); via Zoom: Hannah Coe (DOE); Ed Murphy

Introductions: Ed Murphy introduced himself as a Shelton Valley farmer and former Mason CD board member.

Public Comment: Ed Murphy gave a presentation on why a no till drill would be a good piece of equipment for the district to purchase and then rent out to farmers in the area. Evan discussed possible funding sources as well as considerations regarding district ownership of the drill including maintenance costs, staff time involved in running the program, how much would the drill be used on an annual basis, and possible rental rates. Also included discussion on what other districts are currently running a no till drill rental program.

Evan asked the board to consider adding an additional agenda item for an addendum to the WSCC IM grant that the District received just before the board meeting. Board members agreed to add the agenda item.

Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023: The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
(M – Boltz, S – Miller, Passed – Unanimously)

Financial Report – April 2023: Michael O'Day reviewed the financial report with detail of balances for all funds and checks (20068-20119 + EFT and voided checks 20092-20101) executed during period.
(M – Boltz, S – Miller, Passed – Unanimously)

PROGRAM & STAFF UPDATES

WSCC Update –

Josh reported that all district elections and appointments have been certified at the May SCC meeting. Additionally, Josh reported on the Executive Director search committee progress and expansion as well as information the temporary director stepping away at the end of September. Most program guidelines have been updated and the Grants Procedure Manual is being updated.

Jason Ragan

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The cost share cap per fiscal year per landowner has been updated to \$100,000. Rates have also been updated. SH guidelines are out for comment.

WACD Update –

WACD was absent.

NRCS Update –

NRCS was absent.

(At 4:30 Jason (on Zoom) lost connection. Larry took over.)

DOE Update –

Hannah provided an update on the Oakland Bay issue. There is a June 30 deadline for riparian planting and to have a livestock management plan in place. However, the pollution issue has been dealt with. Hannah updated that she is moving into a different position but nothing will be changing in the next couple of months. Larry asked about how to define “potential to pollute” which led to discussion about the process of letters regarding pollution and potential to pollute items to landowners.

Staff Update –

Justin reported on the budget spending for VSP for the end of the biennium with the first meeting he’s participating in being the end of next week. The outreach program is up and running. Monitoring requirements and equipment purchasing is up for discussion at the meeting.

Nick reported on wrapping up cost share projects as well as preparing to get the potential cost share projects worked out for the next round of funding. He also reported on the Earth day planting event that was finished in April.

Margaret gave a report on Wildfire Ready Neighbors program.

(At 4:45 Jason was able to rejoin on Zoom.)

Evan reported on the booth at the Farmers Market as well as upcoming participation by the district in the Forest Festival parade as well as having a booth at the festival.

OLD BUSINESS –

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report Submittal –

Rhonda reported that annual report has been prepared and was reviewed by Michael prior to being submitted. The report will be published by the State Auditors Office based on their schedule.

Jim Rayer

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Cost Share and Labor Rate Resolution –

Justin and Nick presented information on the current cost share reimbursement rates as well as the proposed rates, and they described the reasons behind the change such as ability to reach a wider demographic within the district. The resolution will change the implementation of ordinary cost share projects to 80% and the implementation of demonstration, education and pilot projects/practices to 90%. In addition, the resolution will change the rate of reimbursement for a VSP participant to 90%. These rates will not exceed 100% of total project costs. The resolution also sets the landowner labor rate at \$25 per hour. Motion made to approve Resolution 2023-4 as presented.

(M – Miller, S – O’Day, Passed – Unanimously)

South Sound Shellfish NTA Subaward –

Nick presented information on the award from the Pierce County Public Health for an additional \$20,000 for district staff time that needs to be spent by September 30th. The contract for said award is still in draft form. Motion made to approve and authorize the chair to sign the contract.

(M – O’Day, S – Boltz, Passed – Unanimously)

Cost Share Preliminary Screen Tool –

Margaret and Nick presented information on the screening tool developed by the district to assist with the preliminary cooperator cost share eligibility. The tool has been developed to help increase cost share project success. This is a pre-screening tool that will provide documentation of initial information for potential cooperators. Discussion occurred regarding the screening process. Slight word modifications were suggested. Motion made to approve and adopt the modified preliminary screening tool as a step in the process of ranking and approving cost share applications at the district.

(M – Miller, S – O’Day, Passed – Unanimously)

Addendum Item #2 –

Evan presented 23-12-IM Amendment #2 for year end 23 funding totaling \$20,000 from SCC. This funding is approved by SCC for \$5,000 for a trailer and portable toilet for the field crew, \$4,000 for a storage container to store tools and equipment, and \$11,000 for a drone for engineering services. This funding needs to be spent by June 30th. Discussion regarding the proposed purchases. Motion made to approve the addendum as presented.

(M – Boltz, S – O’Day, Passed – Unanimously)

Public Comment Period –

No additional public comment was made.

With no further business on the meeting agenda the meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm.

John Raen

6-15-23