



Pend Oreille Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting MINUTES: 12/10/2020

Meeting Start – 3:01 PM

In attendance via "GoToMeeting," : *George Stuiwenga, Board Supervisor – Chair; Randall Leestma, Board Supervisor; Mike Mumford, Board Supervisor; Alex Case-Cohen, Pend Oreille District Conservation District Manager; John Floyd, Board Supervisor; Mike Baden, Washington State Conservation Commission; Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Mark Simpson, Natural Resource Conservation District*

| Official Action Items | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Motion | Motion made by: | Motioned seconded by: | Decision | By what date: |
| Motion to approve agenda and to take items out of order | John W. Floyd | Mike Mumford | Carried | |
| Motion to approve November 12 th , 2020 minutes | Kevin Bush | John W. Floyd | Carried | |
| Motion to approve Resolution 12-10.1-2020 Mail-in Ballot | Kevin Bush | John W. Floyd | Carried | Submit to Miner no later than one week after decision |
| Motion to designate the District Manager as the representative of the Northeast Area Engineering Grant Board | Mike Mumford | John W. Floyd | Carried | |
| Motion to designate District Manager and the Board Chair as primary contacts for our lawyer. | Mike Mumford | Randall Leestma | Carried | |
| Motion to approve submitted Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Treasurer | Mike Mumford | John W. Floyd | | |

Partner Reports

Mark Simpson, *Natural Resource Conservation Service*—

Mark has been on vacation/leave for the past few weeks, though he returned this week. He's started doing WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) annual status reviews. Now that the Kalispel Tribe's water control structure project is complete, he's working on their reimbursement.

Mike Baden, *Washington State Conservation Commission* —

Discussed changes to election process with Conservation Districts. After discussion from WACD's annual meeting, it is not likely that this will be of high priority this legislative session. Final recommendation will be brought to Commission on September 2021 and Districts will be able to weigh in on this decision.

Budget: Mike notified us that the remainder of the Implementation Fund grant was allocated (\$47,800). State revenues are looking better than the summer predictions, though we will know more once the Governor releases his budget. Laura Johnson with the Commission put together some concise fact sheets about budget requests. These will be useful when speaking with legislators in the future.

Legislative Session: The virtual nature of this year's legislative session will put an added burden on outreach.

In-Person Meetings Suspended: A notice has come out about updates to OPMA waivers put into place. Waivers extended through January 19th, 2021. In-person option has now been temporarily prohibited. (See Proclamation 20-29.14).

Mike Mumford, *Washington Association of Conservation Districts* —

Mike was elected/appointed as the Vice President of WACD at the annual meeting. He's looking forward to bringing a flavor of the northeast side to WACD. There is now a vacancy in the NE Area Manager's position; he recommends that the board consider someone to fill that position. He explained that the annual meeting was recorded and anyone that missed it or wants to re-watch can go to the WACD website to find it. Discussions were heated, particularly in the business meeting.

Mike Lithgow, *Kalispel Tribe of Indians* —

A new Purple Air unit was placed at the Indian Creek Community Forest; unfortunately, the Camas Center's Purple Air quality monitor needs to be re-connected.

During the Culvert Replacement project at Cusick Meadows, heavy rains created some issues with backfill; however, those were resolved. The tribe is thankful that NRCS was able to help out. They are excited to have that project completed and will seed it with a conservation cover mix next spring. The project consists of 12.5 acres of enhanced wetlands. LiDAR was used to identify low spots that would have the least amount of impact to neighboring farmland. A small dike structure will be constructed along George Stuvenga's property to protect adjacent properties from increased flooding. The tribe will continue to produce hay; may want VSP funds to plant into wetland. Consultants reached out to Ken Merrell; will need to look at data and draw their own conclusions. Also pointed them to Scott Jungblom.

Nursery: have more capacity than existing production. Working with WSU Extension to put in another row. Want to create a partnership with POCD to provide plants for riparian planting.

If Tribe became Associate Supervisor, we will need to define roles clearly.

Old Business

Mike Mumford, Purple Air Update –

Purple Air sent replacement monitors to the District. Mike has replaced one on our office and will replace one at the Metaline office. The new monitor at the office appears to be reporting. It shows what the impact of wood smoke has on AQ monitors.

The Department of Ecology is leaving an air quality monitor at the POC Public Works building in Newport, WA. They've signed an agreement with the County to lease the site for 1 year. This monitor measure 2.5 PM ONLY.

John W. Floyd, Annual Plan Update –

John asked all supervisors to provide their priorities for the district for the annual and 5-year plans, So far, these are their priorities:

Environmental Education: Dave Smith will attend to represent Newport School District. Lots to do, one of the goals/objectives. POCD Scholarship is at a stalemate; John will see if WACD is interested in higher education as well as Selkirk High School's Scholars for Dollars.

Mitigation for Fires: 100 years ago, considerable talk about what's to be done about fires with fire in 1910. For every \$1 invested in mitigation, will get a rate of return of \$6, which is difficult to beat. Tribe is sharing with golf course a chipper that's big enough to do 6" trees. Through FireWise or with the Volunteer Fire Departments, POCD can do some chipping, get a chipper, or get volunteer FD to do the chipping.

Partnerships: PUD, Library, School System, WSU Extension to be partners. Wants partners to attend meetings. Inclusion includes people. Suggested that Mike Lithgow with the Kalispel Tribe should become an associate supervisor to further strengthen relationships between the District and the Tribe

Kevin Bush & Mike Mumford, Manager Trainings –

Alex has already signed up for Project Management Essentials course, a virtual class held through the South Puget Sound Community College. Other classes of importance to be taken include: Initiation and Planning; Project Execution, Monitoring, Control and Closure; and Project Leadership and Team Management. Each course is \$395 each and requires a 2-day commitment. All courses go towards 150 hours needed for Project Manager's certificate; however, this requires board approval

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 PM

 2/18/21
POCD Board Chair Date

 2/17/21
District Manager Date