

Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council

Board Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2017 | 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees: Frank Hendrix, North Yakima Conservation District, Merritt Wajeeh, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; Ken Tolonen, Master Gardeners; Tom Coleman, Rabbitbrush Ranch; Reese Lolley, The Nature Conservancy; Ruby Irving, City of Yakima; John Simmons, City of Zillah; Ryan Anderson, Brian Miller, Kara Karboski, Kirstin Taggart and Heather Hadsel, WA RC&D; Abby Peters, Peterson Advisors

1. Introductions

Frank called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

2. Agenda

The agenda was reviewed, and the presentation from Abby Peters was moved up earlier in the agenda and a discussion on TATG was added.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the May 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that meetings were changed to 9:00 a.m. and calendar invitations should be updated. *Reese made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ken seconded the motion with the approval of all present.*

4. Budget Reports

The budget report was reviewed. *Ken made a motion to approve the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement. Ruby seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

5. Audit

Abby reported that there were no findings in the annual audit. The new program with the Forest Service may be subject to audit in the future if it's over \$750k in one year. *Ken made a motion to approve the audit and Tom seconded. Motion carried.*

6. YTHAP

Brian provided a handout with the highlights for YTHAP in July. The first voucher for the 2017-18 Expense Contract was submitted to BPA. The annual report was submitted to BPA and is pending their review. Proposed YTHAP projects for the FY18 contract is tentatively scheduled for August 16.

7. Fire Landscapes and Communities

- Hilary Lundgren was hired to coordinate WAFAC. She will work from her home in Leavenworth. National FAC wants to build more networks using WAFAC as an example that other states can adopt as a template/learn from. Chumstick will become part of the WA FAC network and WAFAC will be a National FAC network member. Kara had been splitting her time between WAFAC and WA Rx Fire and now will focus more on Rx Fire. Kirstin will work on special projects.
- We've been helping Yakima Valley FAC financially to bolster efforts. The Kittitas FAC will be requesting fiscal sponsorship from the RC&D.
- The Bureau of Land Management will be providing funds for the WA FAC Learning Network.
- The Forest Resiliency Pilot Project proposal was turned into DNR. It involves video PSAs and six subawards. Putfiretowork.org

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- The Forest Service Master Agreement is actually a total of five agreements for about \$1.4M. We will need to hire a new employee or contractor to manage the program.

8. Clean Water

WSU is working on an extension with Tarleton University. The modeling is done, now they are writing the report.

9. TATG

The Technical Assistance Training Grant is something the RCD has done before. Contracted that we've used in the past are interested. The funding is \$150k for one year. Would need to hire a coordinator. *Ken made a motion for Ryan to submit the TATG application and Reese seconded the motion.*

10. VSP Update

The Volunteer Stewardship Program helps to facilitate restoration of riparian areas in critical agricultural areas. The Yakima Plan is almost done but the budget isn't approved yet. The total program for Washington is \$7.2 million. Yakima will present their VSP plan in September and will be looking for a fiscal sponsor along with the other regions. Some counties will manage their own VSP funds but some might approach the RCD to be the fiscal sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.