

## Pomeroy Conservation District

May 13, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Pomeroy Conservation District was called to order by Mike Hastings at 8:00 a.m. Supervisor's present were Mike Hastings, Seth Claassen, Beau Blachly, Luke Ledgerwood and Scott Williams. Lance Frederick, Briana Kimble, and Mitch Ruchert, were also present.

The minutes of the Apr 8, 2025 meeting were read.

**Scott moved and Beau seconded to approve the Apr 8, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

**Scott moved with Luke seconding to approve the April 9 thru May 13, 2025 treasurer's report and pay the vouchered bills 12853 through 12875, including, 11 EFT and 12 deposits for a total of \$50,203.30. Motion carried.**

**NRCS REPORT:** Mitch Ruchert reported that they are getting IRA funds for this year and next year. The funds are still frozen, and the date of release is yet to be determined. He foresees the possibility of more contracts being honored in Garfield County with the increased amount of funding that will be released. This funding is for things such as EQIP and CSP. He also shared how he currently is to report numbers of employees and tasks daily to Emily Ruchert who reports to higher powers.

### **CREP:**

None at this time.

**COMMISSION:** District Digest (see attached)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

*IM Cost Share-Blachly*-Lance asked about quote from Lee Blachly? Beau mentioned it was still in the works, and that he had 3 different quotes. Lance mentioned we have about \$39,600 remaining in our IM grant and the sooner we can get the quotes the better with deadlines being near. Discussions about the various equipment options were talked about amongst the board.

**Seth moved and Luke seconded to approve Lee Blachly's cost share application once the quotes are acquired with the stipulations of \$15,000 or less at the 75% cost share and anything over \$15,000 a 50% cost share with a cap of \$19,000. Motion Carried.**

Beau was absent from voting.

*Website-* The website is up and running. We are going to put an ad in the paper to notify the public of this change.

**NEW BUSINESS shared by Lance**

*Palouse PE Funds-* Palouse requested \$6,500 for a separate engineer for a project. Lance agreed to help. We received an invoice for \$5,500. We also helped Walla Walla CD out with about \$33,000 in funds for a project they had. We are happy to help other districts where we can.

*Pataha Tour-* RCO project tours occurred last week with Brad and Lance. They went to 4 lakes and Pataha and a few other areas for project inspections. Final submittal is due in June for things like BDAs & PALS.

*TCM Bank Resolution-* When Duane retired he signed things to be shifted over to Lance as the authorized signer. TCM bank still had Duane as the primary contact and authorized signer for the account. To get this changed, TCM bank needed more information from Pomeroy CD along with a resolution by the board that gives Lance Frederick permission to be the authorized signer.

**Beau moved and Scottie seconded to approve Lance Frederick as the authorized signer for the TCM Bank account. Motion Carried.**

*Jim Mital, Lead Entity Board-* Jim is from Moscow Idaho and someone Lance knows and has worked with. Jim sent Lance a letter about his work and interest in helping the Lead Entity work group. Lance forwarded the letter from Jim to Garfield County to look at with their input and involvement with Lead Entity. A collective decision was made to have Jim Mital as a new Lead Entity representative for our area.

*Annual work plan-* This is a plan done annually for the foreseen budget for the next fiscal year in detail. Lance provided the work plan documentation to the board.

**Scott moved and Seth seconded to approve the annual work plan. Motion carried.**

*DOE-* DOE has been doing water surveys locally and collecting data. They have sent out letters requesting permission to access water and streams on our local grower's land and is at the grower's discretion if they allow access for water sampling. Word has it that DOE may be targeting farmers to install a 60-foot buffer to all water streams that run along farmable ground. Brad of Palouse shared that their district put in for funding to help growers in their district with implementing these buffers. Lance has reached out the Jeanne with DOE to try and gather more information about this matter. Sounds like there may be access for a large amount of funding through the Conservation Commission that would be in a 15 year contract for buffers. Luke mentioned he saw an article in Wheat

Life magazine about the buffers in the Whitman County area. This topic brings several questions from many.

Scott Williams excused himself from the meeting for another appointment.

*Justin Dixon*-Justin brought in an invoice for his GPS for the IM grant. It was over by about \$304. With funding available in IM would the board be interested in covering this difference? The invoice was \$10,739 and the quote was \$10,435.

**Beau moved and Seth seconded to approve to cover the difference on Justin Dixon's invoice. Motion Carried.**

**Grader Report by Lance:**

Lance said Jay has been busy grading private roads, field entrances and doing terrace removal. He is currently working on terraces for Ernie Kimble. Jay called Drew with Van Ausdler Tire to come repair a flat tire on the grader yesterday. An invoice was received this morning, and it stated that the o-ring and valve stem were leaking on the LF drive tire.

**Engineering:**

Engineer Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. All board members are welcome to attend.

Engineer Funding for next year will be \$237,000. Discussion about how the funds could be used to help districts occurred. More clarity is in the works. We currently have about \$50,000 in the PE budget for this FY and Gary is compiling a list of needs.

Lance received an email from Pend Oreille with an updated contract for Gary Ausman's engineering needs and help.

**Seth moved and Beau seconded to approve the Interlocal agreement with Pend Oreille CD. Motion carried.**

**OTHER Business:**

**REVIEW OF MOTIONS:**

**Scott moved and Beau seconded to approve the Apr 8, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.**

**Scott moved with Luke seconding to approve the April 9 thru May 13, 2025 treasurer's report and pay the vouchered bills 12853 through 12875, including, 11 EFT and 112 deposits for a total of \$50,203.30. Motion carried.**

**Seth moved and Luke seconded to approve Lee Blachly's cost share application once the quotes are acquired with the stipulations of \$15,000 or less at the 75% cost share and anything over \$15,000 a 50% cost share with a cap of \$19,000. Motion carried**

**Beau moved and Scottie seconded to approve Lance Frederick as the authorized signer for the TCM Bank account. Motion Carried**

**Scott moved and Seth seconded to approve the annual work plan. Motion carried.**

**Beau moved and Seth seconded to approve to cover the difference on Justin Dixon's GPS invoice. Motion Carried.**

**Seth moved and Beau seconded to approve the Interlocal agreement with Pend Oreille CD. Motion carried.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held June 10th, 2025 at 8:00 A.M.

Office Manager,  
Briana Kimble

Board Chairman,  
Mike Hastings