

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday April 21, 2016
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor; Junell Wentz, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, Craig Gyselinck, Jason Sims, and Nada Wentz.

Jim Bartelme, Member, opened the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

MINUTES

Jason and Mike Cushman asked for edits to the March 18 minutes to clarify content.

M/S/C Junell moved and Roger seconded to approve the March 17 minutes as presented, and the March 18 minutes as amended . (Unanimous)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peggy asked that three travel vouchers be added to the Treasurer's Report to cover expenses for attendance to the Strategic Planning Meeting in Ellensburg.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended. (Unanimous)

CORRESPONDENCE

Enduris, the District insurance company, sent a letter with information about nomination applications for interested parties who may wish to serve on their Board of Directors.

WSCC REPORT

Mike Baden was happy to share that the District's preliminary Good Governance report is in the green category. The District is doing a lot of good work. The Good Governance review process is undergoing a change. Districts will be asked to comment on the changes needed at the WADE training this year.

Folks met the new regional manager, Jess Davenport, at the 20/21 meeting in Ellensburg. She will head up the technical development group. The focus is on shared expertise and training opportunities for district employees.

Patrick is very involved with the fire recovery efforts. The Governor signed a budget on Monday allowing \$6 million to fund fire assistance and close to \$100,000 for fire recovery. There is a

question and answer page for the fire project applications to help address for the prioritization of these funds.

A review committee will be looking at district cost share projects. There is a lot of work to do in the next 301 days with Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), cultural resources and task orders to help NRCS with their field work. Most of the workload will be in Okanogan County. They do not have the staff to do the amount of work needed.

Mike thanked Cascadia for all the help getting the fire recovery work on the ground. Cultural resources work will be done through Cascadia's archaeological staff as soon as the agreements are in place with about eleven other districts. Mark and Kim will be able to provide consistent reporting throughout the different areas. Sandy and Patrick will be working on the fire recovery cost share projects.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Craig didn't have a lot to report as he's only been here a little over a week. He's learning about the different District programs and has been out in the field on project sites. The Board welcomed him to the District.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Peggy said she would report on items as they come up in the agenda. Three employee reviews are due and will be ready for the Board at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission

Irrigation Efficiencies: Peggy reported that the Irrigation Efficiency money is almost gone for this biennium. Jon Culp said to send in a budget revision to get more funding for now and to last into next year.

Technical Service Provider (TSP): There is no word yet about the TSP contract. Budget corrections were sent in. Once the Commission receives the contract from NRCS, work can begin.

Cost Share Program: Cost share was awarded for the next project in line, Generations LLC. If there are funds available it may be possible to do one more project in this fiscal year.

Entiat Watershed Project: Jason said the 2017-2018 projects are close to the 80% design level. Implementation is still set to begin in 2017. There will be a public meeting later this year to share the project plans with the landowners and answer questions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapped flood areas in the 1980's. These maps do not depict where the flood areas are today. FEMA is currently updating the maps, but it will be a couple of years before the updated boundaries are released. Until the boundaries are officially changed, agencies need to use the current ones. Affected landowners in the project areas will be made aware of the potential changes.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: Mike is attending a field tour with the Wenatchee Chiwawa group on the 28th, and the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) meeting on the 29th. He attended the Farm Bureau meeting and made some good connections as well as getting names of other folks to contact regarding the VSP outreach. Updates from these meetings will be brought to the Board in May.

Other Projects & Programs: Amanda has completed about 103 fire assessments. Out of the goal of developing eight FireWise communities, three have submitted applications, and twelve other communities are interested. Fuels reduction chipping events are scheduled in several areas of the county. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said they will continue to provide funding for these events, and to apply for more as soon as the current grant ends.

Upcoming events include Kids in the Creek (KITC) May 10-12 and Adults in the Creek April 27. Outreach efforts were made at the Earth days in Entiat and Leavenworth. Staff schedules were spread too thin to cover the Chelan Earth Day event. The calendar will be published if funding becomes available.

Jim turned the meeting over to Hal to chair at 4:39 p.m.

Review and Approve 2016-17 Annual Plan: The Board reviewed the updates made to the Annual Plan at the March 18 meeting. After further discussion and clarification, they moved to accept the edits and budget.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve the 2016-17 Annual Plan. (Unanimous)

Financing Options: Peggy brought the budget and program information for the Board to review. The rates and charges consultants are working on the proposal using this information. The next meeting is set for May 9. Peggy and Valerie will report on the progress at the next Board meeting.

Strategic Planning Meeting: This meeting was held in Ellensburg April 20 – 21, for districts to work with the Commission and discuss how to build the next biennium budget. Mike Baden said that the legislature needs to hear from the grassroots landowners that have been helped by the districts, communicating to the government what help is needed and what is appreciated. They should also hear what is great about the districts and what the funding needs are from the landowners. A new method some are using to communicate what districts do is the use of video clips on their websites.

Peggy reported that the meeting was one of the most engaged and informative she has attended. Two staff offered to work on budget packages to give to the Commission. Craig will help with irrigation efficiencies and Patrick with emergency response, fire recovery and rangeland.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Jim nominated the current slate of officers for 2016, as follows: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve electing the current slate of officers for 2016, as follows: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor. (Unanimous)

Agreements with Other Conservation Districts for Cultural Resources Investigations: Peggy asked the Board to approve individual agreements to do cultural resources work with other districts affected by wildfire. She brought an agreement template for the Board to review.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve individual agreements to do cultural resource work with other districts affected by wildfire. (Unanimous)

Annexation of Cities into Conservation District: The city of Chelan approached the District staff asking how they can annex into the conservation district. The Board briefly discussed the need to let folks know up front that the District is working toward rates and charges. To help fire victims within city limits, the city must be a part of the conservation district. The Board would like to pursue annexing Chelan into the district.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Franklin CD for Education Programs: Peggy said that Franklin Conservation District will know next month if funds are available to provide for the Water on Wheels and Wheat Week educational programs next fall. The Board requested a 5 year MOU agreement with annual work orders.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a five year Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin CD for Water on Wheels and Wheat Week. (Unanimous)

Development of New/Updated Agreements with Chelan County Public Works and Yakama Nation: The existing umbrella agreements with the Chelan County Public Works and the Yakama Nation have ended. The Board was asked to approve new agreements with each entity. The Public Works agreement will have a cap of \$100,000 to cover multiple work orders as projects are identified.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a new agreement with the Chelan County Public Works with a cap of \$100,000. (Unanimous)

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a new agreement with the Yakama Nation for a 2 year period. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference room on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions

Approved the March 17 minutes as presented, and the March 18 minutes as amended;
Approved the Treasurer's Report as amended;
Approved the 2016-17 Annual Plan;
Approved electing the current slate of officers for 2016, as follows: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor;
Approved individual agreements to do cultural resource work with other districts affected by wildfire;
Approved a five year Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin CD for Water on Wheels and Wheat Week;
Approved a new agreement with the Chelan County Public Works with a cap of \$100,000;
Approved a new agreement with the Yakama Nation for a 2 year period;

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____