

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, January 18, 2018
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Junell Wentz, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Wristen, Auditor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Jason Sims, Sandy Letzing, and Nada Wentz.

GUESTS: Jennifer Marquis, Master Gardener Coordinator.

Josh Koempel, Chair, opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Two agenda items were moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Master Gardener Presentation: Sandy introduced Jennifer Marquis to the Board. Jennifer discussed the priorities of the Master Gardener Foundation of Chelan County, and how those priorities run parallel with those of the District. The program teaches gardeners about protection of natural resources, riparian zones and conserving water. She asked the Board for support for the Master Gardener Annual Convention to be held in Wenatchee in September.

Vets on the Farm Program: Jason reported that he hasn't been able to make much headway with the Vets on the Farm program. He connected with Tony Sandoval regarding a similar program called the Farmer Veteran Coalition, which is currently organizing a Washington State chapter. The coalition is working on a Beginning Farmers and Veterans grant. Jason and the Board discussed the potential scope of work involved with this program. Jason asked the Board to approve moving forward with the coalition and with their grant application.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve moving forward with the Farmer Veteran Coalition program. (Unanimous)

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the December 21st, Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. (Unanimous)

CORRESPONDENCE

The Conservation Commission is asking districts about their interest in owning their own office buildings. The Board is not interested at this time.

Ron Schulz sent an email saying the Capital Budget is currently looking favorable to pass.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

March 16 is the EQIP application deadline, which includes Forestry fuels reduction applications. Chris talked about a new program for orchardists called Woody Residue Treatment. The treatment involves grinding and chipping wood waste instead of burning it.

Chris's work schedule has changed. He will be working a week in Wenatchee and a week with the Southwest team for a while.

He invited the Board and staff to attend the Local Work Group meeting on February 20, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call him if there are questions.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Mike Baden reported that all is in order regarding the supervisor election. He handed out a summary of items the Commission is working to keep in the Capital Budget. The group discussed the budget changes and how they may affect the District programs.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The District agreement with Foster Creek Conservation District for financial assistance expires next month. They still need assistance and requested District support through the end of 2018. The Board was asked to approve the new interlocal agreement.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the new interlocal agreement with Foster Creek Conservation District for assistance through the end of 2018. (Unanimous)

Carol Cowling will conduct the Payroll Audit on February 9.

Patrick asked to reduce his hours to 30 – 32 per week. Mike and MarySutton will take on some of Patrick's work load.

Peggy asked the Board if someone would be available to attend the Legislative Days in Roger's place. He is recovering from a recent fall. The Board felt that Mike Cushman's attendance would be sufficient representation for the District.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Irrigation Efficiencies: Mike continues to work with several irrigation companies.

Josh stepped out of the meeting at 4:24 p.m., returning at 4:28 p.m.

Funding for irrigation efficiencies is running out. Peggy estimated that about \$18,000 would be needed to finish the projects. The Board was asked to approve a funding request to the Commission.

Cultural Resource Funds: The District received a new task order that includes 10 cultural resource projects. The cost is about \$30,000. Board approval is needed.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): UCSRB has funds for the District to continue coordination in the Entiat. The contract is \$10,000. Board approval is needed.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): The BPA Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP) is ending in February. Board approval is needed to enter a new contract for \$5,000 with BPA to complete ISEMP work.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the following: Commission irrigation efficiencies funding request for about \$18,000; Cultural Resource Task Order 5 for about \$30,000; BPA contract for \$5,000 to complete ISEMP work; and UCSRB contract for \$10,000 to continue coordination work. (Unanimous)

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Middle Entiat Projects: The Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) is completed. Applicants are awaiting feedback. The goal is to get the budget set, the permits in hand and the wood staged for the project. Implementation of the Middle Entiat projects is scheduled for next year.

Other Projects & Programs:

Urban Ag Program: The Board briefly discussed the Master Gardeners request for support. They agreed to support the program by registering an exhibitor booth attended by District staff.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve support for the Master Gardeners Conference with registration for an exhibitor's booth. (Unanimous)

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Jim attended the VSP meeting in December. Another meeting is set for January 30. He and the Board discussed the program and the goals completed to date. They also discussed the VSP budget and scope of work, and expectations for the program.

Office Lease Renewal: Peggy met with Joe Pitt regarding the office lease agreement with Woods Investment Company, LLC. The lease amount will remain at the current rate for the next two years. The Board was asked to approve the new agreement.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the new two year office lease agreement with Woods Investment Company, LLC. (Unanimous)

2018 Supervisor Election Report: Peggy reported that there were no candidates running for the Supervisor position and no names were written in during the election on Wednesday. The Board discussed options for appointing someone to the position.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: The Board briefly talked about nominating the current slate of officers.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:03 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss an employee evaluation.

The Board resumed Regular Session at 5:13 p.m.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve Mike Cushman's evaluation. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved moving forward with the Farmer Veteran Coalition program;

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the new interlocal agreement with Foster Creek Conservation District for assistance through the end of 2018;

Approved the following: Commission irrigation efficiencies funding request for about \$18,000; Cultural Resource Task Order 5 for about \$30,000; BPA contract for \$5,000 to complete ISEMP work; and UCSRB contract for \$10,000 to continue coordination work;

Approved support for the Master Gardeners Conference with registration for an exhibitor's booth;

Approved the new two year office lease agreement with Woods Investment Company, LLC;

Approved the nomination of the current slate of officers as follows: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor;

Approved Mike Cushman's evaluation.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____