

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, February 15, 2018
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Wristen, Auditor; Junell Wentz, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Hal Hawley, Vice Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Mike Cushman, Sandy Letzing, Patrick Haggerty, MarySutton Carruthers, Valerie Hampton and Nada Wentz.

GUESTS: Mike Cooney, Mayor of Chelan; and Wendy Isenhardt, Chelan City Council.

Jim Bartelme, Member, opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m., and introduced the Mayor of the City of Chelan, Mike Cooney.

Mayor Cooney invited the District and NRCS to attend, and possibly speak at, the 'Everything Water Quality' meeting on April 19, at 6:00 p.m. The public meeting is a good venue to talk about the programs NRCS and the District have to offer. The Mayor is happy to be working with Patrick on the fuels reduction program. A brief discussion about brush removal and recycling followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the January 18th, Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Enduris notified the District that the insurance claim for windshield damage on the Sierra truck has been satisfied and closed. The damage occurred when gravel spray from a dump truck hit the windshield.

The YWCA sent a mailer seeking participation and support for their program. The District will respond to the YWCA and pass the information along to the City of Chelan's Mayor, per his request.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

The last Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline is March 16. This is also the new chipping program deadline for the Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties. The program pays a certain amount each year for orchard tree trimmings.

Next Tuesday is the Local Working Group meeting. Interested folks can attend and decide where the money should be used for the next year. A press release will be coming out soon.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike attended Legislative Days on Monday. He would like to bring a staff member with him next year to help represent the District and the work we do.

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) contract is ready for signature. The contract covers support for the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) and the Watershed Action Team efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Conservation Commission Projects:

Technical Service Provider (TSP) Update: The TSP 5 project is in place with NRCS for cultural resource work.

Irrigation Efficiencies: The District will provide support for mapping, locating historical areas and potential outreach efforts. Funding was secured to assist different irrigation companies in the area.

Natural Resource Investments (NRI): Sandy received word that there is funding for two Conservation Commission projects. One is an irrigation upgrade project in Cashmere for about \$14,000. The other is a thinning project in the Ingalls Creek area by Blewett Pass, for about \$40,000.

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Projects: The E&F project is still on track for construction. Valerie is working on financial details for a new contract with a new financial officer. It will be April or May before the District will be notified that all is approved and in place.

Other Projects & Programs:

Farmer's Market Farm: The Technical Skills Center operated by the school district bought an acre to turn into a farmer's market farm. It will be used as an educational program to teach students about gardening. The folks leading the program are looking for funding and assistance. Sandy asked the Board if they were in support of the program and the time Sandy would put into grant writing. They suggested adding it to the annual planning meeting.

Weed Management: A new cooperative weed management area is being developed between Entiat and north Wenatchee. Sandy said they want to pool public and private entities to gather strategies for weed management, obtain funding to develop plans, and organize landowners for implementation.

Urban Ag After School Program: Sandy is leading gardening classes in the After School Program, and organizing plans to rebuild some garden beds with student help. Teachers are very interested in the program. She is also seeking funding for the program.

Drinking Water Partnership Project (DWPP): This is a drinking water partner outreach program that MarySutton is working on. The second round of funding for implementation

was successful, and the agreement is in the works. The first year would be a feasibility study, the second year would be the trail maintenance and upgrade work with volunteers.

Icicle Workgroup: The next meeting is in August.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Mike and the Board members had a brief discussion regarding the progress and the implementation process of the program. The District laid out the need for funding to move forward with the program, and the importance of involvement from interested Ag growers.

Forestry Program & Projects:

Fuels Reduction Program: The spring chipping program is up and running. Folks in Chelan Ridge and Chelan Falls are utilizing the program. Sign up information is available on the District website.

Firewise: A meeting is planned for the Firewise Communities at the end of March. Chelan County has close to 20 communities. Surveys for meeting topics went out a couple of weeks ago.

Fire Adapted Communities: Patrick is working on a contract with DNR for the Joint Chiefs grant. A meeting was held with the local fire chiefs and the fire adapted communities to work with landowners adjacent to forest service property for forest treatment.

Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council (WA RC&D): The District is assisting WA RC&D to hire consultants to do an analysis of the upper Wenatchee restoration project for the USFS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process involving about 75,000 acres.

Chelan Community Wildfire Protection Plan: The County did a risk mapping analysis last year which is a good foundational element for the CWPP requirements for all of Chelan County. The kick-off meeting should be next month.

Juniper Removal: The juniper removal plans continue to move forward. The project is located at the north end of Wenatchee.

Urban Forestry Proposal: An urban forestry proposal to do a tree canopy assessment in Chelan was submitted. Notification should be coming soon.

Resolution 2018-1 Authorization to Apply for the WaterSMART Grant: BOR requires a resolution to apply for the WaterSMART grant. The Board was asked to approve Resolution 2018-1, authorizing the District Administrator to sign and execute the application and contract documents.

M/S/C Junell moved and Roger seconded to approve Resolution 2018-1, Authorization to Apply for the WaterSMART grant. (Unanimous)

Resolution 2018-2 Elected Position Mid-Term Appointment: Valerie reported that the election was held. No one filed for the position, no one voted, and no names were written in on the ballot. The Board discussed the options available at this time. If Hal does not resign, the Commission will

re-appoint him in May. The District needs to have a policy in place should they need to appoint someone to fill an elected position. The Board was asked to approve Resolution 2018-2 Elected Position Mid-Term Appointment.

M/S/C Junell moved and Roger seconded to approve Resolution 2018-2 Elected Position Mid-Term Appointment. (Unanimous)

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Application Submittals: The following grant applications are in the works: Native Plant Society Conservation grant; NOAA grant with North Central Educational Services District (NCESD), Okanogan CD and the District partnering this regional grant; Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO) and WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Fish Passage Barrier grant; and a WA State Archives program for digitizing files.

Staffing Plan Update: Karl Polivka notified the District that he has funding for some short term JVA work. He requested the staff persons he needs. Valerie wanted to let the Board know.

Jason Sims resigned this week. He is leaving at the end of February. The Board discussed his position and the challenges of hiring someone to fill it. The staff will share his workload during the interim.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the Annual Planning & Special District Meeting in the Columbia Room, on Friday, March 23, 2018, at noon.

Employee Evaluation: The annual employee evaluation for Nada Wentz is due.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded authorizing Josh to review the employee evaluation for Nada Wentz. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved Resolution 2018-1, Authorization to Apply for the WaterSMART grant;
Approved Resolution 2018-2 Elected Position Mid-Term Appointment;
Authorized Josh to review the employee evaluation for Nada Wentz.

BOARD MEMBER _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____