

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, May 17, 2018
3:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Isenhart, Chelan City Council; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, MarySutton Carruthers, Patrick Haggerty, Ken Muir, and Nada Wentz.

Hal Hawley, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the April 19th 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)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Some of the NRCS funding was rescinded, potentially affecting the following programs in our area: Sage Grouse, Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS is discussing opening up the 600 vacant NRCS job positions.

Kelly Greene, from the NRCS office in the Ephrata, announced she is retiring. Chris's detail as Acting District Conservationist for the SW team ends on May 18. He is currently waiting for the NRCS confirmation of Ken's completed Biological Assessment.

NRCS has a new customer tool kit to be posted to their website. This tool will help with the planning certification for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). New calls for applications are coming in. Chris would like to get the current projects certified before the new applications are due.

Josh arrived at 3:40 p.m., and presided over the meeting.

Forestry Program & Projects: The chipping program is currently in progress with over 100 participants signed up and two contractor crews working. The Chelan Transfer station received over 340 yards of material on the first weekend of the District's free dump day program. The program makes two weekends available to dump yard waste for free. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is funding the free dump days.

The Fire Adapted Conference is next week. The District is doing a presentation, followed by a round table discussion with the governor and state representatives. Okanogan and Kittitas Conservation Districts will also be in attendance.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike and Roger attended the Policy meeting in Ellensburg. They briefly discussed the meeting proceedings, the funding needed and educational programs they'd like to continue.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Peggy reported on the Fall Area Meeting planning and the potential meeting rooms and rates. The Board offered a few suggestions for meeting rooms.

Peggy discussed the recent implementation of a state law that all state and local agency vehicles be powered by alternative fuels, such as electric or bio-fuel. There may be exemptions for districts that do not have bio-fuels available in their areas. Wendy Isenhardt offered her assistance for any potential purchase of an electric vehicle.

Josh left the meeting at 4:16 p.m. He returned at 4:20 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Cost Share Projects: Sandy is working on cost share projects that need to be completed in June. Peggy said that two cost share projects from the Natural Resource Investments (NRI) program will be finished in June. She is working on an Implementation Grant budget amendment to move funds from cost share to salaries. The Conservation Commission task order contracts are also closing out by the end of June. It is currently unknown whether there will be funding left over at closing. Ken submitted a Biological Assessment to the US Fish & Wildlife Service under one of the task orders.

Entiat Watershed Projects: The projects are moving forward and agencies continue to wait for word on the permit for site F from DOE. Chelan County will be awarding the contract for wood purchase and delivery soon. There will be an increase in the number of trucks on the Entiat River Road this summer and next.

Other Projects & Programs:

Drinking Water Project in the Icicle: MarySutton reported that a kickoff meeting is planned next week for phase 2 of the outreach work. Trail maintenance and monitoring is scheduled for the next two years. The new outreach brochure was provided to the board for review. The discussion continued, describing how the wilderness areas and lakes were created, who created them, why they were created, and the maintenance that has taken place. It is good information for all the agencies and public involved to know, and the suggestion was made to include this info in the brochure. It was discussed that this brochure might not be the right opportunity and staff will explore others.

MarySutton and the Board discussed the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) irrigation management project with Washing State University Cooperative Extension (WSU) for pear fruit

growers looking at fruit quality and quantity. WSU is seeking farmers who are willing to set up a demonstration block to target the irrigation upgrade.

Board members shared information about watering methods for different fruit crops. They discussed the rise in temperatures increasing the need for water, and they cautioned the idea of 'one size fits all' for watering techniques. The suggestion was made to explore the opportunity for a reimbursement fund to be made available to farmers in the program to cover any crops lost as a result of the test methods.

Icicle Workgroup: The next meeting is in July. Mike will attend and report the progress to the Board.

Urban Ag Program: Sandy continues to work with the community gardens and urban Ag, as well as the after school gardening program.

Annual & Long Range Draft Plans: Peggy asked the Board to review the changes made to the Annual and Long Range plans. Upon Board approval, she will finalize and send them in.

M/S/C Hal moved and Roger seconded to approve the Annual and Long Range Plans. (Unanimous)

The Annual Financial report has been submitted.

Wenatchee School District MOU for After School Programs: District staff have been working with after school programs and would like to partner with the schools to get more programs going. The schools have been very pleased with the current program. Mike signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will open the door for other opportunities and potential funding. The Board was asked to approve moving forward.

M/S/C Roger moved and Hal seconded to approve moving forward with the Wenatchee School District MOU for After School Programs. (Unanimous)

2018 Supervisor Election / Appointment Update: This is Hal's last official meeting as a supervisor. Rita Lovett has applied for the position, but was not able to attend this meeting due to prior commitments. Peggy recommended setting up a meeting between her and the Board members when she returns.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Government Training: The District is required to conduct the training every four years, and the training is due again this year. Peggy will set it up for a Board meeting sometime this summer.

Change of Board Meeting Days: Board meetings have been held on the third Thursday of the month for the last few years. Peggy asked if the day could be changed to the third Tuesday of the month. The Board is in favor of changing the day, and a resolution will be brought to the next meeting for Board approval to officially change the day to the third Tuesday of the month.

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

Roger asked that a resolution be submitted to the Area Association allowing one vote per district at the Area Meeting. The District has until September to get this ready.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:15 p.m., the Board entered Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss employee evaluations.

The Board resumed Regular Session at 5:30 p.m.

M/S/C Hal moved and Junell seconded to approve annual evaluations for Patrick Haggerty and Sandy Letzing, and step increases for Mike Cushman to Program Director, Step 6 effective May 16, and Sandy Letzing to Resource Specialist II, Step 3 effective August 16. (Unanimous)

A message was received during the meeting regarding a contract amendment to increase the budget by \$7,320 for the DNR chipping contract.

M/S/C Roger moved and Hal seconded to authorize Peggy to sign the DNR contract amendment. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved the Annual and Long Range Plans;
Approved moving forward with the Wenatchee School District MOU for After School Programs;
Approved annual evaluations for Patrick Haggerty and Sandy Letzing, and step increases for Mike Cushman to Program Director, Step 6 effective May 16, and Sandy Letzing to Resource Specialist II, Step 3 effective August 16;
Authorized Peggy to sign the DNR contract amendment.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____