

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor; Jim Bartelme, Member; and Rita Lovett, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Mackey and Wendy Isenhardt, guests; Mike Baden, WSCC; Sarah Troutman and Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Valerie Hampton, Ken Muir, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

NRCS is funded to work until next week. Other partners are affected by the government shutdown. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications are going forward. The local office is instructed to work with landowners and planning prior work to get applications pushed through.

Sarah Troutman is on temporary detail in Spokane as the Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs through May. The position has not been advertised yet. Local district staff can still contact her during this time. The Cultural Resources Specialist position in Ephrata has been filled.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

The Commission continues to communicate funding needs, including forest health, fire community activities and other fire related work.

Board of Supervisor elections are going on. Mike Baden will be attending the District's election on Thursday for observation. Districts are reminded to get ready for their annual plan of work and to have grant funds expended by the end of June. Recommendations for implementation grant allocations should be available for review soon.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The District received a phone call from a county resident regarding hemp crops. Mike Cushman asked the Board what the District policy should be. He will also ask for information from the Commission. Chelan County has a 'no work' policy. The current farm bill states that a permit is

required through the state, and the crop is to be used for research purposes. It isn't known what the new farm bill will include.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

MarySutton is returning from maternity leave next week. Kim Lancaster is on medical leave and is expected to be back to work in about four to six weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): The last two cost share projects were completed in December.

Implementation and Irrigation Efficiencies: There is nothing new to report. Staff continue to work on a list of cost share projects.

Entiat Watershed Projects: The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) is working toward integrating more agencies and folks into the group. They are discussing ways to plan and prioritize the meetings and the information shared.

Middle Entiat Projects: The Board discussed the progress of landowner agreement negotiations and the next steps to take. The contract for the Area E Project will be awarded upon receiving requested documents.

Other Projects & Programs:

Icicle Workgroup: The County and the Department of Ecology (DOE) will make the final determination for the preferred alternative Incentive for Ecosystem Services (IES).

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): The agreement is in place and there will be a meeting next week about the project list tool. Valerie provided feedback on the tool and the process, and is currently waiting for a response.

Hort Days: Nada conducted the election, with Valerie on hand to answer questions. District representatives attended some of the presentations, and information on District programs was available at the booth.

Mike Mackey commented on the class C noxious weed, Tree of Heaven. They are a host to insects that destroy grapes and stone fruit.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: The meeting was held last Thursday. Phase 1 is completed. Phase 2 of the plan is due on January 18. Phase 3 is in the development stage. Annexation into the Hazard Mitigation Plan was briefly discussed.

Washington RC&D (WRCD) Contracts: We are currently working on two new contracts with WRCD. In one, the District will provide contract management support to the WRCD for the Upper Wenatchee Restoration Projects. The first contract for this work ended in December. The second contract is currently being negotiated; we are requesting an 18 month project for around \$62,000.

The other agreement is to continue funding components of the District forestry program with the Washington Fire Adapted Communities (WAFAC) for about \$25,000.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): UCSRB provided funding to update a website specific to the Entiat Valley.

The Board was asked to approve entering into the three contracts.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve the following contracts: WRCD Upper Wenatchee Restoration Project, WRCD WAFAC Project, and the UCSRB Entiat Watershed Website Assistance Project. (Unanimous)

Grant Applications: The Board was given updates on the grant applications staff are working on. The funding would assist with projects such as signs for the Saddle Rock planting, watershed clean-up activities and the Rolling Rivers watershed model.

Resolution 2019-1 Amendment: The Board approved opening a separate bank account to receive the credit card payments made through Square. A debit card is needed for same day Square deposits into the account. The bank will not allow a separate account for this as the District accounts are under new government account rules. Debit cards are not allowed for government accounts. The Board was asked to approve Resolution 2019-1 stating that credit card payments will be deposited to the District savings account instead of a separate account.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve Resolution 2019-1 stating that credit card payments will be deposited to the District savings account instead of a separate account. (Unanimous)

Square credit card business stated that the District would need a debit card to have same day deposits. Since same day deposits are not possible with Wells Fargo, the Board requested research into alternate banking options.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Days: Legislative Days is January 28. Mike and Sandy will be attending along with Craig Nelson from Okanogan Conservation District. They will support the Commission budget proposals and stress the importance of wildfire conversations.

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

Rita announced that she will be resigning from the Board. She has enjoyed being a part of the District. Her part time job has become a full time, making her unavailable for participation at the meetings. Rita wants to make sure the Board has full representation. She will submit a resignation letter in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following contracts: WRCD Upper Wenatchee Restoration Project, WRCD WAFAC Project, and the UCSRB Entiat Watershed Website Assistance Project;

Approved Resolution 2019-1 stating that credit card payments will be deposited to the District savings account instead of a separate account.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____