

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 91690711676
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, January 15, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; Dillon Miller, Auditor; Amy Bridges, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Salzer, WACD; Mike Baden, WSCC; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Ryan Williams, and Nada Wentz. All attendees were present via Zoom Meeting / conference call.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Consent Agenda: Approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2020 Regular District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT – Chris Wright

Sarah Troutman is working on cultural resource task orders for the District. The work orders are part of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Chris reported that about 40% of the overall EQIP money budgeted was spent in Chelan County last year. It looks to be about the same amount for 2021.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT – Mike Baden

The Commission and WACD are moving forward with plans to have the election committee meet again. Districts are invited to give their input on the information generated from the committee meetings.

COVID 19 guidelines are updated regularly and are available in the COVID Resource Section of the Commission's web site. Legislation is moving to provide virtual Open Public Meetings Act options for emergencies.

The Commission and NRCS will provide an overview of how task orders work in a webinar next week. Districts are encouraged to have staff members sit in on the meeting.

The first Hazard Mitigation training is next week. He thanked Patrick and Amanda for their assistance in pulling this together. The training is geared toward district staff and a few partners.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (WACD) REPORT – Tom Salzer

Tom briefly reported on the following: the Legislative session opened on Monday with little drama; new information on working with the Legislature has been published on the WACD website, courtesy of WACD lobbyist Brynn Brady; the first draft of a new annual work plan is nearly ready for the WACD board to review at their work session on Monday. Tom met with a large group of Ag

lobbyists that also pulls in some of the House and Senate Ag committee members. The Plant Materials Center (PMC) has harvested 750,000 stems, with 500,000 stems in the cooler and 250,000 stems shipped. Everyone is healthy.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission & Project Updates by Region:

Conservation Commission Projects: There has not been a lot of activity in the last month due to all the holidays. The workload should increase as the weather turns warmer.

Lake Chelan Basin: Ryan was not able to attend the last meeting in Chelan due to prior commitments at that time. Plans are moving forward for the FEMA application on the North Shore for post-fire assistance. The pre-application was approved, and Patrick is now working on the full application.

Entiat Watershed: There was also not much activity within the Entiat area due to the holidays. Staff are discussing how to engage new landowners with information about the projects that have already been done, as well as the projects planned for the future.

Wenatchee Watershed: The District's grant application made it on the Department of Ecology (DOE) preliminary funding list. Work in the Chumstick, Salmon Safe, and a field-based education program are included in the preliminary proposal. The District ranked in the middle of the many submissions.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40): There was nothing new to report. The last item discussed was the prescribed burning in the Squilchuck area.

Grant applications / Contracts:

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Proposal: The project will assist with landowner outreach and involvement in the Entiat area to keep residents aware of the work that has been done and future work plans. BOR requires that the Board approve a resolution to submit an application for this grant. The proposed resolution authorizes Peggy's signature on the contract. Peggy requested that Ryan's signature be authorized instead of hers. The Board agreed and the change will be made on the document before it is signed.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve Resolution 2021-1, an Application for a WaterSMART project. (Unanimous)

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Grant Application: The previous grant covered funding for technical assistance for education on gardening at schools, community gardens, and women's shelters. Board approval is needed to apply for this grant.

M/S/C Junell moved and Dillon seconded to approve applying for the NACD grant. (Unanimous)

Update & Decision Regarding Chipping Program: Not much progress was made on the information requested by the Board at the last meeting. Both the holidays and annual leave for District and DOE staff made it hard to meet and gather the information. Details were talked through at yesterday's conference call. Ryan proposed that the information be written up for the Board to review and approve at the next meeting.

Rates & Charges Update: Jim asked Mike Baden about what is needed for the renewal of the Rates and Charges. Mike indicated that the process has not changed and includes a hearing before the end of August. He suggested talking with the county commissioners early in the process to see if they have questions and filling them in as to how the funds are used in District work. Working with the FCS Group would be helpful. Jim noted that with all new commissioners it would be good to have more involvement with them.

NEW BUSINESS

District Credit Card Changes: Peggy requested that her credit card be transferred to Ryan's name, and that Sandy's credit card balance be transferred to Valerie's card. Sandy will be leaving the middle of February, and Peggy will be retiring in the spring.

M/S/C Jim moved and Amy seconded to approve cancelling Peggy's District credit card and transferring the \$2,000 limit to a new District card for Ryan; and canceling Sandy's District card, transferring the \$500 balance to Valerie's District card, raising her limit to \$1,500. (Unanimous)

Discuss Agenda Format: Peggy proposed that the Administrator and Director's reports be moved to the body of the Old and New Business. The Board agreed to the change. Jim requested that a round robin be included at the end of the meeting for information from Board members.

Entiat Landowner, Ray Sandidge: Peggy informed the Board of Ray Sandidge's passing and shared a brief review of his involvement with the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit and the watershed plan. A condolence card was sent to the family and an article about Ray will be included in the Spring Newsletter, coming out in April.

District Election: Valerie reminded the Board to go vote on February 5th, at Pybus Public Market. Amy asked that a reminder be emailed to the Board members the day before. A second display advertisement will be placed in the newspaper reminding folks to vote as well.

Set February Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular Meeting is Friday, February 19, 2021, at 1:30.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved Resolution 2021-1, an Application for a WaterSMART project;

Approved applying for the NACD grant;

Approved cancelling Peggy's District credit card and transferring the \$2,000 limit to a new District card for Ryan; and canceling Sandy's District card, transferring the \$500 balance to Valerie's District card, raising her limit to \$1,500.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____