

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING  
Upstairs Conference Room  
14 N Mission St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Thursday, January 16, 2020  
3:30 p.m.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; Amy Bridges, guest; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Valerie Hampton, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Josh introduced Amy Bridges, a candidate for the elected Supervisor position. Junell Wentz is the incumbent and is running for re-election. The election will be held January 28, at the Wenatchee Convention Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2019 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)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Roger submitted a letter requesting his term as Supervisor be extended through February, instead of ending on January 31.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve revising Roger's resignation effective date to February 29, 2020. (Unanimous)

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT**

NRCS is at the beginning of the program application season. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) have sign-up periods in February. Training for the new Farm Bill programs will be on January 27 and 28. Roylene would like districts with NRCS task orders to have a representative attend the training.

The Local Workgroup meeting was re-scheduled for January 31 at the Chelan Fire Hall from 1 to 3 p.m.

Several Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are expiring this year. They can be rolled into an EQIP contract. The roll over will create an opportunity for task orders for District staff to assist with the anticipated workload.

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Craig Nelson, the District Manager at Okanogan Conservation District, plans to attend Legislative Days in Olympia later this month. Mike reported that he will be meeting with our representatives individually rather than attend the Legislative Days event.

Wendy Isenhardt is no longer the City of Chelan representative at our District meetings. Mike plans to meet with the new representative, as well as the new mayor, and introduce them to the District's programs.

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Davis Arneil Law Firm sent information to the District about the rates they would charge for review of District contracts that need updating. The law firm thought it would take about an hour to review each document. Peggy asked the Board to approve the review and update of District agreements, starting with Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and contracts with non-profit organizations, followed by others as needed.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve the review of District contracts and agreements by Davis Arneil Law Firm. (Unanimous)

The current contract with Woods Investment Co., LLC for office rent ends in February. Rufus indicated that there will be an increase, but it is not yet known what the amount will be.

Kirk Beckendorf is the new Environmental Educator, as of January 3. He's excited to learn, teach and build on the District educational programs.

## SUPERVISOR SERVICE AWARDS

Josh gave the Conservation Commission 5-year pin award and certificate to Junell. He thanked her for her service as a Board Member. He also gave Roger a plaque expressing the District's appreciation for his 10 years of service. The group had a short break for refreshments. Roger complimented the District staff for their strength and ability to work toward the best interests of the public we serve.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Conservation Commission Projects:**

**Cost Share Payment Approval:** The Weber cost share project payment was approved by the Board within the Consent Agenda.

The Implementation and Irrigation Efficiencies projects are ongoing. The Drought grant will be extended but it is not clear for how long. Work on three Task Orders continues, with one closing out soon. The other two are awaiting better weather conditions. More cultural resource work is expected soon.

### **Project Updates by Region:**

**Lake Chelan Basin:** Currently, there are no updates for the Lake Chelan area. Mike has had conversations with some of the folks that serve on the city council.

**Entiat Watershed:** The Landowner Steering Committee met and indicated they want to keep the Entiat meetings going on an “as needed” basis. Mike is changing the Planning Unit meeting schedule from quarterly to semi-annual. The landowners will continue to work together as they have done in the past. The group wants to encourage new folks to attend.

**Wenatchee Watershed:** The District will be the local coordinator for the Peshastin, Leavenworth, Lake Wenatchee, and Cashmere fire districts to work on a social marketing campaign in support of a grant received by the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Kirk and Sandy are meeting with the Master Gardeners and the Wenatchee School District about continuing the ‘After School Garden’ program. The Master Gardeners will assist with volunteers and support. Sandy and Kirk will help coordinate the program. Kirk is meeting with Carol Cowling from South Douglas Conservation District next week to talk about the sharing of educational materials with Douglas County.

The Board was asked to approve a contract with the Washington Conservation Corps to assist with District projects.

M/S/C Junell moved and Jim seconded to approve the WA Conservation Corps contract. (Unanimous)

**Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40):** Mike and the Board discussed some landowner weed control issues, the request for assistance, and potential volunteer work as a solution to the problem.

### **Other Updates:**

**Grant Applications / Contract Updates:** There is a new Drinking Water Providers Partnership application coming out soon. Part of the grant would pay for new low maintenance toilets on trails in the Icicle watershed.

There will be a few more grant applications coming up next month.

**Election Proposal:** Roger requested that a District Election report be created, covering the last 5 years of elections. The data would cover the number of candidates running for election, how many votes, and cost of the election process as the District currently conducts it. Discussion followed regarding how the report would be used.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Set February Meeting Date & Agenda:** The next District Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

**Summary of Official Actions:**

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved revising Roger's resignation effective date to February 29, 2020;

Approved the review of District contracts and agreements by Davis Arneil Law Firm;

Approved the WA Conservation Corps contract.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ASSISTANT \_\_\_\_\_