

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, January 19
3:30 p.m.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Craig Gyselinck, Jason Sims, Mike Cushman, Patrick Haggerty and Valerie Hampton.

Josh Koempel, Chair, opened the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2016 Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The Conservation Commission provided copies of their Annual Report as well as 2017 calendars for distribution to the Board.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris brought a copy of Sarah Troutman's report. The Local Work Group set the natural resource priorities for the coming year at their recent meeting. The first deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has passed, and staff are working on ranking the applications. The next deadline is February 17. Chris said to encourage people to apply, especially with forestry, irrigation or wildfire projects. Four applications for Chelan County have been received so far this year: two forestry and two orchard irrigation, plus a carryover fish passage application from last year. Activity is picking up now that the word is out there is someone on staff in Wenatchee to help. A new position is to be filled in Waterville, and they are fast-tracking two new soil scientist positions for that office as well. Will Keller at the Okanogan office is the acting Central Area Resource Conservationist for now.

PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

Rates & Charges: Craig reported that staff are working to finalize and send out bills to the state and federal entities not billed by Chelan County for their parcels. It will be interesting to see if they pay. The total is about \$10,000 in potential revenue. The Treasurer's office is being very cooperative and helpful. Due to the different nature of these invoices from the occasional plant sale or cooperator invoice, changes are needed to the District's collection policy. Currently, the policy states that the

District will impose finance charges and eventually submit unpaid bills for collection. The proposed new policy allows for discretion to not pursue collections when it is not cost-effective to do so.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to adopt Resolution 2017-1, Receivables and Collections, amending Resolution 2004-7. (Unanimous)

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Peggy said Legislative Days is coming up in February. Roger and Craig will attend. There are proposed new Growth Management Act and Voluntary Stewardship Program amendments to the law. They will need to be reviewed and possibly discussed at a later meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects: There is a new application in progress for a \$31,000 Task Order with NRCS. The work includes time sensitive projects that need to be done by the end of June. With the existing Task Order and the fire-related cultural resources work, Peggy added extra funds to the budget for anticipated overtime and extra mileage.

The fire recovery work also needs to be done by June 30. There are a half dozen new requests from Stevens CD, three from Okanogan CD, and some from Lincoln CD as well. The Irrigation Efficiencies, Implementation and Firewise work is ongoing. For the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP), the Commission agreed to sponsor the project near Lake Chelan and administer the program. The District will serve as project manager if the landowner wants to proceed.

For the Irrigation Efficiencies program, Craig reported that the staff has been working with Trout Unlimited (TU) on an updated water conservation plan for the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District. A Request for Proposals was developed to hire a consultant. The review team assisting TU included irrigation district board members, their manager, Jack Myrick, and Craig. Aspect Consulting was selected. This will be a big project, and must be done by June 30 to meet TU's funding deadline, but the system will not have been in operation for very long into the irrigation season at that point. TU is looking into the possibility of Irrigation Efficiencies funds to extend the project timeline. Craig is hoping the plan will identify some projects that would be a good fit for Cascadia to implement.

Entiat Watershed Projects: The projects that were pushed to 2017-18 are still on the Bureau of Reclamation's priority list, but the process to secure construction authority is slower than they would like. The expected construction timeline will be updated when they have more information. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will likely drop the Intensively Monitored Watershed program because they can no longer follow the timeline of implementing a suite of projects followed by several years of monitoring.

Jason was elected Vice President of the Entiat Chamber of Commerce. He is working to keep people updated and keep a positive message as part of his outreach through the position.

Roger noted that the District could act as a contractor for habitat projects on Forest Service land. Jason said he is also working on building a relationship with the Entiat District Ranger. They are planning to take folks up to look at the campgrounds. The Forest Service will re-assess the soils and slide risks in the area, and eventually decide on the road situation. Jim said people are mainly concerned about when they will re-open the road. It was noted that the area was open for winter

recreation for sleds or snowshoes, but the campgrounds are still a mess. The risk factors are influencing their decisions but the situation is also affecting people who are upset about fishing and other issues. Jim believes people would be more satisfied if they would just say that they plan to re-open, or are waiting for funding or approval, etc.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: Craig said that BPA put out a project request for the Wenatchee watershed. Cascadia had a lower Wenatchee project in mind, but the landowner has backed out for now. It also has connections to forestry related work. He will look at putting that project in for funding through another source. We are also partnering with Chelan County for a fish screen project this round. More projects will be sought for the next round of BPA funding.

Josh stepped out of the meeting at 3:58 for a few minutes. He returned during the discussion of Other Projects and Programs.

Other Projects & Programs:

Lake Chelan Conservation Easement (CE): Craig continues to work on the Lake Chelan CE project. All of the landowners in the project area agreed to allow the Chelan PUD to do the survey. He is getting quotes for the appraisals to be done in early spring. The current contract with the PUD will end in February. They are working on a new contract for the District to complete the work.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP): Patrick gave an update on the CWPP progress. There was some confusion between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about the \$25,000 BLM had available to update the plan. That is now resolved, but there was some mixed feedback in the working group on whether to do the work in-house or hire a consultant. Although it might be cheaper, there is not a lot of capacity for the extra work within the group. Chelan County said there is money available through the existing consultant agreement. Northwest Management has the task to do the updated plan. Meetings are being put together to discuss the scope of work. The consultant will be under the direction of the CWPP working group. Chelan County has discussed putting in an additional \$10,000 to develop additional outreach.

Firewise: Patrick reported that four communities applied for grants directly from DNR, and each got a \$15,000 award with a 50/50 cost share requirement to create shaded fuel breaks. Cascadia will match 25% from the Commission Firewise grant, and the landowners will contribute 25%.

Flood Control Zone District (FCZD): Mike said Cascadia is part of the advisory group for the FCZD. He has provided some feedback, but the cities and county have the major components. The plan is out for public comment. The biggest work that went on was the communication between municipalities. Participating in the plan helps them to score better in qualifying for insurance and funding. There may be funds in the future to assist with the private land interface on their public projects and help with outreach. Jim asked if the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) was involved. Mike indicated that they are a big player along with WA Department of Ecology. Mike was asked if precipitation gauges were rolled in to the plan. He indicated that FEMA is mainly involved with the flood plain, as Chelan County has a lot of drainages and types of flood plains. Gauges are considered to be more a part of emergency response. There will be a need to re-engage when they update the old flood plain maps as there will likely be changes. Roger cautioned about spending too much District funding on the process, but Jim noted that it is in the District's best interest to stay at the table so we can work with the

landowners to try and get something done. Josh said it's also important to the City of Wenatchee, and since we just brought them in to the District, we need to be involved. Mike said all the cities are participating. Participation also strengthens the District's relationship with Chelan County Public Works.

Election Update: Valerie reported that due to a disqualified signature on Junell's petition, there were not enough electors to put her name on the ballot form. The election was conducted as all write-in, and Junell is the apparent winner. The election will be certified by the Commission in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers: Peggy noted that the Board usually has its election in February, but since there won't be a change of members, it could easily be done this month.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to nominate the current slate of officers. The following officers were elected: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor. (Unanimous)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:45 pm, the Board entered Executive Session for ten minutes for an Employee Evaluation. They resumed Regular Session at 4:55 pm.

M/S/C Hal moved and Roger seconded to approve Mike Cushman's evaluation and renew his telecommuting agreement for two years.

Jim commented that last year was a great year for the District; the staff did a great job.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Adopted Resolution 2017-1, Receivables and Collections, amending Resolution 2004-7;
Nominated and Elected the following officers: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor;
Approved Mike Cushman's evaluation and renewed his telecommuting agreement for two years.

CHAIR _____

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT _____