

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Wristen, Auditor; and Dillon Miller, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; Sarah Troutman, Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Valerie Hampton, Patrick Haggerty and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve two corrections to the Minutes of the August 27th Special District meeting;
Correct the Meeting Date from July to August;
Correct the Area Meeting location to Mansfield not Waterville;
Approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Regular District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Erin Kaczmarczyk, from the Ephrata Service Center, is serving as the Acting Area Conservationist until the position is filled. The position has been advertised and is anticipated to be filled soon.

A new assessment tool, the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART), began the first part of October. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Due to the workload and the new CART rollout, District Conservationists will not be attending WACD this year.

NRCS projects needing District cultural resource work are in progress. Sarah hopes to get Kim and Mark out to some new project sites before it snows.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Mike Baden reported on some of the proposed district election process changes. The proposals will be open for comment until November 8. A survey will be coming out asking districts what types of things work for each county. There will be sessions at the Area Meeting for discussions on the election proposals and on the training of district staff that run the supervisor elections. Mike also talked about the supplemental budget requests.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fuels reduction program alternatives that could coincide with the current chipping program were discussed, as well as potential funding, partners, and development of program specifics.

Mike and Peggy will meet with the Department of Agriculture to discuss an education and outreach program for water quality monitoring. The Board talked about other options in support of this program.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Peggy brought a staff request to the Board for two weeks leave without pay. Any leave request over five days requires Board approval.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a two week leave without pay for Sandy Letzing.
(Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Drought Projects: Mike provided an update on drought projects and remaining work.

Irrigation Efficiencies: A meeting about a possible project will be held tomorrow. Information will be brought to the November District meeting.

Project Updates by Region:

Entiat Watershed: Mike briefly reported on folks affected by the Cougar Creek Fire. Flooding from recent heavy rainfall caused damage to one home. Mike is working with the landowner. The construction at the Area E project site is completed. The contractor's change orders were discussed and Valerie explained the billing process. She asked the Board for permission to accept the completion of the project and approve payment for the work. Retainage will be held.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to accept project completion and approve payment for the Area E project to the contractor, Ecogrind Site Solutions LLC. (Unanimous)

Wenatchee Watershed:

Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project: The Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) holds the contract for this project. Patrick is involved with project coordination and provided the board with an update on the ongoing contract NEPA work.

Forest Health Collaborative: On behalf of the group, Patrick is working on a grant with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for funding to do forestry work related to the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project.

Cost Share Projects: Cost share projects are presently being implemented in the Blewett and Chumstick areas.

Joint Chiefs Project: Implementation of forest health treatments have begun on about 130 acres. The District worked on site visits, landowner outreach and landowner cost share agreements with DNR.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40): A site visit regarding a previously submitted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant application is planned next week with the Forest Ridge group and Scout-a-Vista. Discussions are ongoing.

Other Updates:

Grant Applications / Contract Updates: The DNR contract is currently in Olympia awaiting signature.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): The UCSRB requested support for their upcoming salmon conference. The Board was asked to approve \$500 for this purpose.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve \$500 for support of the Salmon Conference.
(Unanimous)

Washington State Fire Adapted Communities (WAFAC) Funding: The current WAFAC funding will end in December. Other funding opportunities that could offer continued support for the Firewise programs were discussed.

Education Position Funding: Franklin and South Douglas CD's have contributed support to the education position. The position will provide all three districts with education through programs like Wheat Week, Water on Wheels, and After School Gardening. Staff hope to advertise for the position soon.

Area Meeting Preparation – WACD Dues Resolution: One of the Area Meeting resolutions to be discussed is the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) dues. Dues are currently on a tiered rate schedule. The proposal is to have all districts pay the same amount.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 District Election Preparation: The Board will be asked to review and approve a supervisor election resolution at the November meeting. The resolution will set the details of the election in 2020. Staff will advertise the intent to adopt a resolution as required by the Conservation Commission.

Regular Meeting Day Change, Resolution 2019-4: The Board was asked to approve changing the Regular District Meeting days from the third Tuesday of the month to the third Thursday of the month.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve Resolution 2019-4, changing the regular meeting day to the third Thursday of each month. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved a two week leave without pay for Sandy Letzing;

Accepted project completion and approved payment for the Area E project to the contractor, Ecogrind Site Solutions LLC;

Approved \$500 for support of the Salmon Conference;

Approved Resolution 2019-4, changing the regular meeting day to the third Thursday of each month.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____