

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, October 15, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; Abigail Nickelson, WA State Dept. of Agriculture; and the following District staff: Valerie Hampton, Ryan Williams, Sophie Kandul, Mark Ingman and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom Meeting / conference call.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Abigail Nickelson works for the Washington State Department of Agriculture in the Natural Resources Research section. Some of the work includes hands on monitoring for pesticides instead of computerized estimates, conducting educational webinars, and technical assistance to configure and calibrate pesticide sprayers.

She presented a bar graph showing monitoring results for pesticides and explained that the elevated counts dropped down quickly during the sample period. She noted that Chlopyrifos will no longer be allowed in the spring of 2022. There is funding available to do more webinars as well as site visits to calibrate sprayers and provide continuing education credits. There are also small grants for replacing pressure gages, regulators and nozzles.

Consent Agenda: Approve the September 17, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT – Chris Wright

Contracting for the Fiscal Year is closed. NRCS picked up nine new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts in Chelan County. The 280 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are finished and the payment processes are progressing.

The Okanogan field office is looking to hire a Resource Conservationist. The mandate to be vaccinated is in November. NRCS staff, contractors and other agencies co-located in NRCS offices will be required to show proof of vaccination. The remodeling project at the Wenatchee Forest Service building is set to be finished by June of 2022.

New District Personnel Introduction: Ryan introduced Mark Ingman to the Board. He fills the Resource Specialist II position, formerly held by MarySutton. He received a warm welcome by staff and is looking forward to getting work accomplished.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Applications:

US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cutler: This Partners Program application is to replace a barrier in Eagle Creek. The application is due at the end of the month. A possible matching grant for design and implementation could come from the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program through Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and the state Recreation and Conservation Office.

Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC): The new WAFAC grant round includes some new options for the funding packages. Ryan and the Board discussed applying for funding that could enhance current District programs.

Department of Ecology Direct Implementation Funds: Ecology Central Washington Office has some direct implementation funds available. Ryan discussed project ideas to submit to the grant opportunity.

M/S/C Jim moved and Kurt seconded to approve the grant applications to USFWS Cutler, WAFAC and Department of Ecology. (Unanimous)

Grant Contracts:

Chelan County Interlocal Agreement (ILA): This agreement is an update to the 2017 agreement. The updates include a framework on interactions between Chelan County and Cascadia. Most of the discussions have been focused on irrigation efficiencies.

2022 DOE Centennial Clean Water: This contract is ready to sign. It helps fund youth education, Salmon Safe, riparian work, BDAs and administration of the projects.

NRCS Cultural Resources Task Order: There are six NRCS projects needing cultural resources work in this order. Approval to proceed is requested. One project in particular would like to finish before the snow flies.

FCS Group: The previous contract has ended and a new one is needed for 2022. Ryan discussed asking FCS for a five-year contract instead of a two-year contract. FCS bills the District for the time to prepare the annual Rates and Charges roll and submit it to the County.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve signing the following contracts: Chelan County ILA, 2022 DOE Centennial Clean Water, NRCS Cultural Resources Task Order, and the FCS Group. (Unanimous)

Cost-Share Agreements:

Warman: This agreement covers the second step of a two-step project. The work planned includes irrigation upgrades, sprinkler upgrades and moisture sensors. The cultural resource work is done. The first step of the project has been certified as completed.

Zook: The landowner agreement hasn't been signed yet. It will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

Rudolph: This is a forest project in Peshastin set for woody residue treatment, thinning and pruning on 21 acres.

Malmassari: This is an irrigation project for pasture, hedgerow, watering for the hedgerow, and irrigation upgrades. There is a potential for seeding later.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Amy seconded to approve the following cost share agreements: Warman irrigation efficiency, Rudolph forest treatment, and Malmassari irrigation upgrades. (Unanimous)

Personnel Update: Sophie has been working on a Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) site on the Chumstick and watering riparian plantings in Cashmere and Peshastin. She has also worked with Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation on their lamprey study, worked at the hatchery, and with the Kids in the Forest and Kids in the Creek education programs. Today is her last day in the office. She leaves for her home this weekend. Board and staff wished her well and thanked her for all her hard work.

Ryan extended the advertising for Ken's position. The forestry position was rebranded and the job title was changed to Forest and Community Resilience Specialist. The resumes received so far are looking good. Jason Lundgren was invited to sit in on the interview calls for Ken's position and share his perspective.

Amy left the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Cost Share Policy for Post-Fire Recovery Actions: Ryan and the Board discussed options for the cost share policy changes in hopes of attracting more landowner interest and incentive. They also discussed the cost share percentage limits that different agencies allow. The Board deferred any changes to the staff as they have a better sense of what is needed in emergency recovery scenarios. Ryan will talk with the staff, work on the existing policy and send it out to the Board before the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

The public meeting regarding the 25 Mile Creek fire is next week. Patrick will be attending the meeting. Mike Baden has encouraged districts to submit projects and see what shakes out. FEMA applications are due next month.

Board members felt it important to get a message to the Forest Service about forest erosion control and forest clean up. It is a known proactive and effective way to prevent some of the problems landowners are facing right now.

Most of the cultural resource work is for fire recovery. Kim and Mark are happy to be busy, if not overworked right now. Chelan County Public Works is doing FEMA post fire flood control work on Number 1 Canyon. The work involves onsite monitoring for cultural resources. The District was approached about our interest in doing the monitoring. Mark and Kim could do the work in a cost-effective manner.

Elections: The Board was asked to think about the 2022 election and appointment schedule. Things to consider are: who will serve as the election supervisor; date, time and place of the election; and how the COVID conditions may affect that time frame. The Board briefly discussed the options available. They agreed that Pybus Market is a good venue should the Fruit Days not be available in

January. They also discussed ways to get the word out about the election to have a better voter turnout. The Board will be asked to approve a Resolution regarding the date, time and place at the meeting in November. Kurt's position is up for appointment and Jim's position is up for election.

Conservation Commission Projects: Commission project contracts were presented earlier in the meeting.

Project Updates by Region

Lake Chelan Basin: Current activities are the 25 Mile Creek fire meeting and the kick-off of the Keep it Blue Chelan Campaign in October.

Entiat Watershed: Mark, Kurt and Ryan will tour the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) project sites.

Wenatchee Watershed: Kids in the Creek occurred the last week of September at the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery. USFWS was required to limit groups to under 10, so they mostly provided equipment and logistical support while staff from many different organizations taught the course.

Southern Chelan County Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 40: The Kids in the Forest (KITF) program was held at Mission Ridge this year. FEMA has provided Cascadia with a contract to begin the Scout-A-Vista project. There are some final details to be worked out before the contract can be signed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved grant applications to USFWS, WAFAC and Department of Ecology;
- Approved signing the following contracts: Chelan County ILA, 2022 DOE Centennial Clean Water, NRCS Cultural Resources Task Order, and the FCS Group;
- Approved cost share agreements for Warman irrigation efficiency, Rudolph forest treatment, and Malmassari irrigation upgrades.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____