

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
3:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Rita Lovett, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, Sarah Troutman, Alan McBee, NRCS; Ryan Baye, Patricia Hickey, WACD; Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Valerie Hampton, MarySutton Carruthers, and Nada Wentz.

Junell Wentz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the September 18th Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The District received a letter from the Commission stating that Jim is up for re-election for his Supervisor position.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) requested that letters of support be sent to the Governor. They also asked that the letters be emailed to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Templates are available on the WACD website. This was discussed at the North Central Area Meeting today.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline for specialized programs, such as high tunnels and sage grouse, is November 2. NRCS is waiting to hear about the Farm Bill before announcing the deadlines for the main EQIP applications.

The new Resource Conservationist will begin work in Waterville soon. Interviews for the NRCS Central Area archaeologist position were conducted. The new person should be announced soon and begin work in about four to six weeks.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Mike Baden began his report by announcing this year's award winners. Valerie Hampton received the North Central Employee of the Year Award, Mike Cushman and Peggy Entzel received Managers of the Year.

Jim Bartelme is up for re-election and Josh Koempel is up for re-appointment in 2019. Mike suggested watching the webinars on the election process and the new risk analysis information. He also discussed some of the rules for supervisor campaigns.

Budget items were discussed at the Area Meeting earlier today. A supplemental budget request was submitted for flooding in Okanogan and Stevens counties. Matching funds for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) are needed. These are good topics to talk about with the legislators.

A pre-application was submitted to FEMA for Hazard Mitigation funds.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Cushman met with the County commissioners and gave them a brief report about the EWP along with Joe Lange's write up about the flooding potential from the fires. Mike and Patrick will attend the next meeting to give a more detailed report.

WACD REPORT

Patricia Hickey, WACD, discussed base funding and budgets, new lobbyists, and work sessions with committees to make a case for state funding needs that will support education.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

MarySutton is making plans for her maternity leave. Peggy recommended that the Board approve the full amount of maternity leave possible and keep her health insurance in place.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve the maternity leave request for MarySutton Carruthers. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Conservation Commission Projects:

Implementation Grant and Irrigation Efficiencies: The grant tasks are ongoing.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) Task 9: Task 9 is winding down. The field work is finished and the report was submitted last week.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): One of the three projects is completed and closed out. The other two are continuing toward completion.

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Middle Entiat Projects: The Area E private landowner agreement was received. The next steps are the construction bid packet and the planting plans, which may also go out to bid this fall.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) Landowner Agreement: The Board briefly discussed the progress with landowner agreement. A meeting will be held with CDLT to further discuss the document.

Other Projects & Programs:

Icicle Workgroup: Mike and the Board discussed items from the last workgroup meeting. Mike asked for the Board's direction in looking for alternatives for the workgroup. The Board asked that Mike keep them informed, and wait to comment on specific topics.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): The Board discussed the response to the District letter of concerns sent to the VSP group. Mike and Jim will attend the next meeting on October 25 and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

Forestry Program & Projects: The Kids in the Forest program went well and about 1,200 students interacted with the volunteers.

Chipping Event: Money was added to the amendment to cover the cost for chipping crews. There are about 75 landowners signed up for the fall chipping event. This is a tremendous outreach effort that can be done throughout the year, whereas burning is only allowed at certain times and creates air quality issues.

Urban Ag Program: There is not much to report at this time, but there will be more at the next meeting.

Hazardous Mitigation Plan: Mike will have more information and a brief summary packet for the Board at the next meeting. They briefly talked about the annexation process and criteria involved.

Grant Applications: The staff and Board discussed potential grant applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Conservation Corps Agreement: The program has a renewable agreement for 40 hours of work a week at a cost of \$500 a year. It provides a stipend of \$1,800 a month for the intern and training for the staff on issues veterans face. Peggy & Mike interviewed an individual, feel that he would be a good fit with the current staff, and would be a help with the urban ag work. Peggy asked for Board approval to offer the position, and for Mike and Peggy to negotiate the agreement with the Veterans Conservation Corps.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve negotiating the Veterans Conservation Corps Agreement and offering the position to a candidate at Mike and Peggy's discretion. (Unanimous)

Additional Office Space: Peggy briefly discussed the rental of an additional meeting room for meetings, filing projects and webinars. The office space available would cost about \$200 a month in addition to the regular office space. Mike felt that setting the room up for webinars wasn't cost effective at this time. The Board agreed that using the room on a short term basis would be acceptable, and suggested continuing to look into the best, most cost effective way to do it.

WACD Annual Meeting: The dates for the Annual meeting are November 26 – 28, and it will be held in Kennewick. Roger and Mike are attending. Mike will be presenting at the meeting.

District Election Advertising: A resolution to set the details of the next supervisor election will be brought to the board for approval at the November meeting. Staff will advertise the intent to adopt a resolution as required by the Conservation Commission.

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the maternity leave request for MarySutton Carruthers;

Approved negotiating the Veterans Conservation Corps Agreement and offering the position to a candidate at Mike and Peggy’s discretion.

VICE CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____