

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98384781138>

Meeting ID: 983 8478 1138

14 N Mission St.

Wenatchee, WA 98801

Friday, October 16, 2020

1:30 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Salzer, WACD; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Ryan Williams, Sandy Letzing, Ken Muir, MarySutton Carruthers and Nada Wentz. All attendees were present via Zoom Meeting / conference call.

Junell Wentz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Special District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT – Tom Salzer (for Mike Baden)

Tom briefly talked about the changes to district election rules. He also noted that the WACD Plant Materials Center has been struggling to keep operations open since the COVID-19 pandemic began, but there are still plants available for projects. Two Area Association meetings were held this week. Planning and coordination for the Annual Meeting are currently underway.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ryan Williams

Ryan has been working for a couple of weeks. He has been calling folks to introduce himself and to familiarize himself with the District partners.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Peggy Entzel

Peggy reported that Ryan is doing well and has a good approach. The District's latest three-year audit starts on November 2. Peggy will let Dillon know when the entrance and exit meetings are scheduled once that information is known. All other items will be brought up later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates: Sandy and other staff have spent about three weeks installing over 3,000 plants as well as livestock exclusion fencing. She is working on the next round of implementation funding.

NCW Area Association Meeting Update: Ryan attended the Area meeting. He briefly discussed the presentation on district election changes. There are a few options on how elections will be run that are not exclusive. The Commission will pursue some of the changes through the legislature. Districts are encouraged to be proactive about the changes.

Grant Applications / Contracts: The Department of Ecology (DOE) application was submitted on Tuesday. Another grant application will be submitted in November. The No Child Left Inside grant deadline has been extended to next spring. An application will be submitted at that time. Several Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) agreements are ending at the close of the year. New agreements usually start up again at the first of the next year.

Patrick worked on the filming for the Upper Wenatchee Pilot project. The draft Environmental Assessment is scheduled to come out next month. Patrick and MarySutton are working with the PUD on an agreement to get projects underway for forest health.

Staff Hiring Update: Sandy indicated that she will be leaving the District late this year or early next year. Ryan and Peggy will work on the hiring process for another resource specialist to fill her position. MarySutton will be on maternity leave beginning the middle of November.

Peggy requested annual leave for October 19-21. The Board approved her request.

NEW BUSINESS

Social Security Tax Holiday: The Presidential Executive Order to defer some payroll tax obligations through the end of the year will only affect two people on the District payroll. These staff normally work very few hours during fall and winter, and the benefit to them would be small. The potential of having to collect and pay the back taxes later could also be problematic. Mike Baden, Peggy and Val recommended not to implement the tax holiday. The Board agreed.

2021 Supervisor Elections & Appointments: One of the changes to election procedures is that the District is not required to place an ad before adopting the election resolution. The Board can adopt the resolution and then advertise the details in the paper. It is unknown what COVID-19 restrictions will be in place or whether the usual events where the election is held will take place in January. The Board discussed alternative places to hold the election and asked the staff to make some inquiries and identify options before the next meeting. The Supervisor positions to be filled next May are for the elected position now held by Dillon and the appointed position now held by Amy.

Authorized Signature Forms: A new Commission authorized signatures form will need to be done to add Ryan and the new person that is hired to fill Sandy's position.

Set November Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular Meeting is on Friday, November 20, at 1:30. Information will be provided later as to whether the meeting will be in person or a conference call.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda.

VICE CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____