

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, October 26, 2017
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: Mike Baden, WSCC; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, Sandy Letzing, Patrick Haggerty, and Nada Wentz.

Hal Hawley, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the September 21st Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris discussed the NRCS programs, the budget and staffing concerns, and the Biological Assessments task order with the District. NRCS is changing their planning criteria and Chris will update the District as things change. There is potential for NRCS and District staff to assist each other with workload and staffing.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Mike Baden presented awards to Kim Lancaster for District Employee of the Year; Jim Bartelme for Supervisor of the Year; and Cascadia Conservation District for NCW Conservation District of the Year. He congratulated all for jobs well done.

Josh Koempel, Chair, arrived and presided over the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Mike discussed the Area meeting, the effects of not having a Capital Budget, policy issues, resolutions that passed at the Area Meeting, and supervisory elections and appointments. The Commission is looking to appoint a new Central Area Representative. Mike asked the Board to let him know of anyone that may wish to apply.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Cushman shared some of the language changes in the County's Shoreline Update. The Board talked about firewise assessments, fuels reduction and defensible space. They also discussed management of riparian areas.

The Board asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the County Commissioners for their hard work in making changes to the Shoreline Master Plan.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The State Auditor suggested that meeting minutes be streamlined in structure and content. Peggy will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Peggy reported the Annual Leave balances to the Board, and requested that the employee evaluation scheduled for the executive session be deferred to Josh for final review.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve deferring the employee evaluation to Josh for final review. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects – Updated List of Cost Share Applications: An additional cost share project was added to the list already approved by the Board at a previous meeting. The Board was asked to approve the updated cost share projects pending available funds:

1. A. Walter – fuels reduction – location #1
2. Willsey – irrigation
3. A. Walter – fuels reduction – location #2
4. D. Walter – fuels reduction
5. Sundquist – fuels reduction
6. Gustafson – fuels reduction
7. Lowney – fuels reduction

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve the updated cost share projects in the following order, pending funding: A. Walter Fuels reduction #1, Willsey irrigation, A. Walter fuels reduction #2, D. Walter fuels reduction, Sundquist fuels reduction, Gustafson fuels reduction and Lowney fuels reduction. (Unanimous)

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): Mike and the Board discussed the BOR contract extension for project sites E&F and the submission of a proposal for the next phase of work. The Board was asked to approve the proposal submission and contract extension.

They then discussed a proposal for the final budget year of the BOR Coordination & Monitoring Project. Board approval for that proposal was also requested.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve the following: a contract extension for the BOR E&F Site Projects, Next Phase proposal submission, and submission of the Coordination & Monitoring Project Budget proposal. (Unanimous)

Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW): The Board discussed the IMW program, which is ending this year. Mike wants to have recommendations ready when other monitoring programs become available.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) Landowner Agreement: The Board discussed landowner agreements and the limitations of conservation districts when developing them. The Board asked that the CDLT agreement be brought back to them for further discussion and review.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects:

Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID): The meetings and plan are ongoing. The draft plan should be available in the coming months.

Other Projects & Programs:

Icicle Workgroup: The Board had a brief discussion about District involvement with the Icicle Workgroup steering committee.

Chelan Pilot Project: Patrick is working with the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) on a proposal for an upper valley restoration project with the Forest Collaborative. Mike hopes to have the contract ready for signature at the next Board meeting.

Water Efficiency Pilot Project: MarySutton is working on a proposal with WSU Extension for a cost share project to assist orchardists with water efficiency.

Centennial Clean Water Grant Proposal: Sandy submitted a Department of Ecology (DOE) Centennial Clean Water grant proposal.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Mike Cushman, Mike Baden and the Board members discussed the current status of the program with the funding and the expectations. They also discussed the next steps.

Watershed Locals Night – Additional Funding for Urban Ag Program: The Watershed Locals night was a successful event.

Trout Unlimited Cultural Assistance: The Board was asked to approve the District assisting Trout Unlimited with cultural work for their levee removal project, using District funds.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve assisting Trout Unlimited with cultural work for their levee removal project. (Unanimous)

DNR Chipping Contract: The DNR chipping contract was recently received at the District office. Peggy signed the contract, as the chipping event began this week. The contract runs through June of 2019 with funds of about \$49,862. Peggy asked the Board for formal authorization of the contract. Patrick reported that there are about 100 landowners signed up for the fall chipping event.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to authorize the new DNR Chipping Contract. (Unanimous)

Grant Application Submittals:

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Grant: The Sustainable Forestry Initiative grant has a three year term, and partners with multiple entities interested in improving forest management. Mike asked the Board to approve the application submittal.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve submittal of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative grant application. (Unanimous)

PUD – Urban Agricultural Project Assistance: This is a pilot cost share program for up to five residential water users to update their irrigation systems. Mike asked the Board for approval to move forward with building the program.

M/S/C Junell moved and Hal seconded to approve moving forward with the PUD Urban Agricultural Project Assistance program. (Unanimous)

2018 Supervisor Election Resolution: Valerie discussed the election process with the Board. A Resolution will be brought to the next meeting and Valerie will manage the election advertising and details.

NEW BUSINESS

Archive Records Services: Valerie discussed the services available, the current requirements and the various methods for archiving records. The Board was asked for approval to make a plan to digitize the records and get feedback from stakeholders about some of the handwritten records. The Board asked that the item be brought back to the next meeting after the plans of what to keep is better determined.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved deferring the employee evaluation to Josh for final review;

Approved the updated cost share projects in the following order, pending funding: A. Walter Fuels reduction #1, Willsey irrigation, A. Walter fuels reduction #2, D. Walter fuels reduction, Sundquist fuels reduction, Gustafson fuels reduction and Lowney fuels reduction;

Approved the following: a contract extension for the BOR E&F Site Projects, Next Phase proposal submission, and submission of the Coordination & Monitoring Project Budget proposal;

Approved assisting Trout Unlimited with cultural work for their levee removal project;

Authorized the new DNR Chipping Contract;

Approved submittal of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative grant application;

Approved moving forward with the PUD Urban Agricultural Project Assistance program.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____