

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING  
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557  
14 N Mission St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Friday, November 18, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Bridges, Auditor; M. Pete Teigen, member; and Kurt Hosman, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Troutman, NRCS; Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, Patrick Haggerty, and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom.

Kurt Hosman, Member, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

**Consent Agenda:** Approve the October 21, 2022, Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the October Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Native Network sent a letter officially canceling the District IT services as of the end of 2022. The IT services information will be discussed later in the agenda.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Sarah Troutman

Sarah reported that NRCS received a several applications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Cascadia is conducting field inventories and NRCS will enter the information in the system for ranking. The workload with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the RCPP projects will keep folks busy. There was additional mention of some task orders for Cultural Resource work.

Frank Curtin was selected for the Resource Conservationist position in Wenatchee. He will start in January 2023. The Waterville office also has a new Resource Conservationist. A vacancy for the NRCS Cultural Resources position was just announced. It is hoped that the position will be filled soon.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC): Mike Baden

Mike shared information regarding election statute changes and a reminder to prepare for the 2023 election. Changes suggested by the joint committee include: Supervisor terms go from three to four years, districts be given the option to hold their elections with the General Election, and March be designated as the month to hold elections instead of anytime between January and March.

Other items from the Commission included financial information form changes, new programs like Sustainable Farms and Fields, and a food systems grant opportunity. Mike is working on a template

for annual and five-year planning and guides to use the templates. He will work with Pete to complete the new supervisor training. Mike is attending the WACD Annual Meeting next week in Wenatchee and hopes to see a few of Cascadia's Board and staff there.

**STAFF REPORT: Patrick Haggerty**

The spring chipping program went well. The fall chipping program was canceled due to lack of funding. There were some Fire District chipping events during the fall, as they have their own chipper. Cascadia is planning to have a chipping program in the spring of 2023.

Team Rubicon is a group of volunteer veterans helping folks with fuel reduction on their property when they can't get out and do it themselves. They assisted several landowners this year, who were appreciative of the help.

Patrick and Joe have been doing field inventories for the RCPP applications. Frank Curtin, NRCS, was in town and went out with them earlier in the week. Pictures shown in the presentation were of the Chumstick Wildfire Coalition work. There were seventeen projects and 140 acres treated that align well with the RCPP program.

Patrick discussed future plans and goals for fuels reduction and shaded fuel breaks with the Board. They are looking at shifting the District's focus from programs that overlap with the fire districts, such as chipping, to allow other program work that further enhances forest health.

**Grant Applications and Contract Reviews:** No applications or contracts to review this month.

**Other Business:**

**Office Space:** Ryan and the Board had a lengthy discussion about what is needed by the District for office and storage space. Secure storage for large field equipment and storage for smaller field equipment and tools is high on the list. Office space could possibly be downsized with staff working from home in the winter and out in the field during the summer/fall months. The server and file cabinets will require a climate-controlled storage area. There are many facets to consider.

The Board asked Ryan to talk with staff about office space needed and offered suggestions for potential field equipment storage areas.

**IT Services:** Native Network is dropping their IT services. Some of the options are Key Methods, Firefly, and 3 Sherpas - a business in Leavenworth. Ryan has a couple of quotes and is waiting for the third. He and the Board discussed some of the service items needed for the District computers and servers, including the document retention regulations to be followed.

The Board decided that Ryan and Amy should be given authorization to review the proposals and make the final decision for IT service.

M/S/C Pete moved and Amy seconded to approve authorizing Ryan and Amy to make the final decision after reviewing the IT service proposals. (Unanimous)

Native Network can still provide internet and the phone system for the District. Ryan and the Board briefly talked about other internet and potential cell phone service companies.

*(Lost Amy's call. No quorum from this point on.)*

**Health Care Plans:** Quotes for 2023 renewal from Health Alliance have been received. Ryan and the Board talked about the pricing, coverage, costs and options available for staff. Because this is a time sensitive decision, a special Board meeting will be called to finalize and approve the health care plan before the end of November.

**Executive Director's Report:**

**Surplus Equipment:** Ryan asked the Board's permission to surplus the infamous laptop pending a Board approval when a quorum is present. A new laptop has been purchased and is already in use.

**Temporary Hiring for Irrigation Efficiency:** Funding is available to cover a 30 hour a week temporary position. The work would cover outreach to orchard and vineyard landowners for about five months. Since there isn't a quorum, this can be brought back for approval at the special meeting or wait until the December meeting. Ryan would like permission to hire someone pending a quorum.

**Cost Share Funding:** Ryan and the Board discussed the Commission's inconsistencies for administrative rules and overhead costs. The Commission allows overhead on the Technical Assistance (TA) work but not on the implementation work. Other districts are having the same problems with billing and payment rules. The managers of some of the districts have met to talk about drafting a letter to the Commission requesting they address and fix these funding issues. The Board supports the drafting of the letter to the Commission.

**WACD Annual Meetings:** Monday, November 28, is the first day of the WACD Annual meeting. Kurt and Pete plan to attend on Monday. Dillon plans to attend the meeting on Tuesday. Ryan discussed a couple of the resolutions that will be considered. One of them is about raising the cap on the Rates and Charges. Another is regarding water rights for livestock watering after fencing cows out of the water source. Only District Board members are allowed to vote.

**WACD Monthly Meeting:** The monthly WACD meeting is a Zoom meeting at 6:00 p.m. Ryan will give a presentation on the projects District staff have been working on. He will use the same presentation for the Chelan County Commissioners next week. The Commissioner meeting is on Tuesday at 11 a.m., in-person or via Zoom.

**District Holiday Party:** The District holiday party is December 6, at the Tap & Putt. A taco bar will be available. Mini golf, darts and shuffleboard are also available to play. Desserts can be brought in as well as vegetarian options.

**Special November 2022 Meeting Date and Agenda:** The Special meeting is set for November 29, at 8:00 a.m.

**December 2022 Meeting Date and Agenda:** The next Regular meeting is December 16, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

**Board Member Comments & Open Discussion:** The Board members had a brief discussion about their responsibilities as members and the decision process versus delegating decisions to Ryan.

The Regular District Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**Summary of Official Actions:**

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved authorizing Ryan and Amy to make the final decision after reviewing the IT service proposals.

MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ASSISTANT \_\_\_\_\_