

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, November 21, 2019
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; Jim Bartelme, Member; and Dillon Miller, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Roger Wristen, Auditor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; Cole Provence, DOE; Wendy Isenhart, guest; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Valerie Hampton, MarySutton Carruthers, Sandy Letzing and Nada Wentz.

Junell Wentz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy Isenhart reported that Bob Goedde is the new mayor of the city of Chelan and brought up the Tree Canopy Assessment work in Chelan. There was discussion about encouraging residents to choose trees that are native. She proposed consideration of a tree swap incentive program where you replace a non-native tree with a native tree or shrub.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2019 Regular District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

NRCS will incorporate the new farm bill changes this year, along with their new Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART). An additional farm bill training is planned for January 2020. Chris will contact the District with potential benefits and information on the eligibility for cost share programs.

The Local Work Group (LWG) voted on the resource concerns they most want to focus on at the spring meeting. With the new farm bill, NRCS is looking to review and revise the resource concerns chosen last spring. Revisions need to be submitted by January 18, 2020. A small work group may be formed giving the District the opportunity to add two more concerns to the list. Sarah Troutman will email information soon.

Task Orders are moving forward. The District received a pat on the back for having the most task orders in the state.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike discussed the forest health program with the Board.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The District power wagon and trailer have not been used for quite some time. They were recently put up for bid on eBay, and sold.

An invoice for about \$2000.00 came to the office today and needs to be paid. It was not listed on the Treasurer's Report. Peggy asked the Board to approve payment to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG).

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve payment of a Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group invoice for approximately \$2,000.00. (Unanimous)

The advertisement for an Environmental Educator was posted as a part time position at 20 hours a week. Funding for a full time position is not currently available. The application deadline is tomorrow afternoon.

The 2020 employee wages and benefits packages were added to the list of items on the agenda for today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Cost Share Program Review: The group discussed the removal of items from the cost share list that are covered by other agencies, and also discussed items to add that would be beneficial to the community we serve. More information will be brought to the Board as updates become available.

Project Updates by Region:

Lake Chelan Basin: For those that are interested in the information contained in the report, the Draft Aquatic Invasive Species Report is out for review.

Entiat Watershed: The summer barrier removal work is wrapping up. A brief discussion followed regarding future barrier removal projects and concerns.

A project that was completed in 2010 has some bank erosion concerns upstream of the project. Potential funding to preserve the project and allay the concerns of affected landowners was addressed. The Board agreed to move forward with a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant proposal.

Wenatchee Watershed: Mike described the voting process and choices for the Icicle Work Group (IWG). The group briefly talked about the District's role at IWG meetings.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40): District staff are excited to have the opportunity and the support to assist the Latino community with fire adaptive community and community garden practices.

Other Updates:

Grant Applications / Contract Updates: The Board was given a brief report on the current Department of Natural Resources (DNR) contract for the chipping program, as well as information for a few grant applications that staff are currently working on. Other grant applications are in the planning stages and information about them will be available at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Wage and Salary Schedule: The cost of living increase for 2020, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), is 2.3%. Peggy recommended the 2020 Wage & Salary Schedule reflecting this increase, pending Board approval.

Health Insurance Package: Some of the health insurance plan details and rates are not yet available. The Board discussed some of the options. Junell was appointed to review and approve the best plan when the information becomes available.

M/S/C Jim moved and Dillon seconded to approve the 2020 Wage & Salary Schedule cost of living increase of 2.3%; and to appoint Junell Wentz to review and approve the health insurance plan. (Unanimous)

Resolution 2019-5, 2020 Election: The Board reviewed Resolution 2019-5, stating that Nada Wentz is the Election Supervisor; the deadline for election applications and absentee ballot requests is December 18 at 5:00 p.m.; and voting will be at the Wenatchee Convention Center on January 28, 2020 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve Resolution 2019-5, 2020 Election. (Unanimous)

Conservation Commission Election Survey: The Board discussed the election survey questions from the Commission. It will cost \$50,000 a year and more to be a part of the general ballot process. The Board agreed that the general election ballot is cost prohibitive, and the general election cycle conflicts with the District process. They directed Valerie to complete the survey on the District's behalf with their summaries and comments.

WACD Meeting Business: The Board was asked to review a proposal to be submitted at the Annual Meeting, should it be approved. After discussing the proposal, the Board did not feel they had enough information to support its submission at the Annual Meeting.

Contract and Agreement Legal Review: The District contract templates are in need of legal review and updates. Peggy briefly discussed the common documents used and suggested a legal firm to review them. The Board was asked to approve Davis Arneil Law Firm to review the contract templates.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve District contract review through the Davis Arneil Law Firm. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

Jim is interested in attending the Salmon Conference in January.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved payment of a Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group invoice for approximately \$2,000.00;

Approved the 2020 Wage & Salary Schedule cost of living increase of 2.3%; and to appoint Junell Wentz to review and approve the health insurance plan;

Approved Resolution 2019-5, 2020 Election;

Approved District contract review through the Davis Arneil Law Firm.

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____