

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, December 18, 2018
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; and Rita Lovett, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roger Wristen, Auditor; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Mackey, guest; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, John Tamngin, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the November 20th Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline has been changed to February 15. The Local Working Group meeting date will be rescheduled due to government budget problems and available funding. There is a high potential for a government shutdown affecting all Federal employees, including work on NRCS task orders.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A public meeting was held in Entiat over the weekend. Mike Asher, Fire Chief, introduced different agencies that reported on emergency information for landowners affected by the Cougar Creek fire. Emergency warnings and evacuation plans were presented. About 18 people attended the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Conservation Commission Projects:

Task Orders: The Task Order 9 work has been completed. Work on Task Orders 10 and 11 will continue pending a potential government shutdown.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): Work on the third fuels reduction cost share project has been completed.

Implementation Grant and Irrigation Efficiencies: Work is continuing on these grant tasks. Staff are working on a new list of cost share projects.

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Middle Entiat Projects: Bids came in for the Middle Entiat Gray Area E Project. The Board was asked to approve awarding the contract to the apparent low bidder after conducting the required checks. The Board discussed the project contract and asked for a review of the contract before awarding it to the bidder.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve awarding the Middle Entiat Gray Project contract to the apparent low bidder, pending Rita's final review of the contract. (Unanimous)

Another component of the Area E Project is revegetation. The Board was asked to approve going out to bid for the planting component.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve going out to bid for the planting portion for the Area E Project. (Unanimous)

The Middle Entiat projects have a monitoring requirement in the scope of work. Drone flights for monitoring purposes are more cost effective than manned helicopter flights. The drone software is expensive and there are annual trainings as well, which is why a contractor is preferred at this time to conduct the work. The Board was asked to approve going out to bid for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UVA) contractor.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve going out to bid for the UAV contractor for Middle Entiat project monitoring. (Unanimous)

Other Projects & Programs:

Icicle Workgroup: The Workgroup is still determining how participants will vote on a preferred alternative. It is unclear what a workgroup member will be asked to do to fulfill this role or if Chelan County and Department of Ecology will make the selection on their own, without a workgroup vote.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): The meeting scheduled for today was canceled. A contract with the Chelan County Department of Natural Resources should be fully executed soon. The three tasks the District is to cover are reviewing an outreach plan, attending meetings and reporting. Involvement with the program is uncertain after this agreement is met.

Forestry Program & Projects: The NEPA work is moving forward in the Upper Wenatchee Pilot project. Additionally, Cascadia is working with Washington Fire Adapted Communities (WAFAC) to develop a contract to fund components of our forestry program. The draft contract is due at the end of December.

Urban Ag Program: There was a discussion about interest in potential projects and the possible involvement of Veteran interns learning about agriculture.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Phase 2 of the plan is due on January 18, 2019. It will be brought to the Board for discussion at the January meeting.

Grant Applications: Staff are working on the WAFAC agreement due December 31st.

Leavenworth Mountain Association (LMA) Agreement: The Board was asked to approve the LMA Agreement for \$10,000 for monitoring and data processing, as well as coordination of a volunteer fencing project. The monitoring work consists of collecting data in recreational areas, and is part of the Drinking Water Partnership Program.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve the Leavenworth Mountain Association agreement.
(Unanimous)

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) Agreement: Peggy recommended that the Board approve the UCSRB agreement to continue the work in the Entiat. The funds help support the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) and Watershed Action Team meetings.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board agreement. (Unanimous)

Election Updates: One person has filed to run for the elected Supervisor position.

Square Account Updates: The Board gave approval at the November meeting to open a separate account to receive credit card payments through Square. Peggy and the Board reviewed information received regarding opening a separate new account. Peggy recommended revising the motion to receive credit card payment for plant sales into the current savings account, instead of starting a new separate account, which will be more expensive for the District to maintain. The Board was asked to approve this change.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve depositing credit card payments through Square into the Savings account instead of a separate account. (Unanimous)

NEW BUSINESS

FCS Group – Rates & Charges Update: Peggy issued a purchase order to the FCS Group to compile the 2019 data for Rates & Charges. This information is due to the County by December 31st.

Paid Family & Medical Leave Act Premiums: The Board talked about the new Family & Medical Leave Act premiums. Employers with less than 50 employees have the option to not pay the employer portion of the premium. They decided that the District would take that option.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve opting out of paying the employer portion of the Family & Medical Leave Act premium. (Unanimous)

Holiday Leave: The Wenatchee World may close their doors early on Christmas Eve day. The Board recommended closing the office at noon and giving staff time off for Christmas Eve.

M/S/C Junell moved and Rita seconded to approve closing the office at noon and granting four hours of holiday leave on December 24. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved awarding the Middle Entiat Gray Project contract to the apparent low bidder, pending Rita's final review of the contract;
- Approved going out to bid for the planting portion for the Area E Project;
- Approved going out to bid for the UAV contractor for Middle Entiat project monitoring;
- Approved the Leavenworth Mountain Association agreement;
- Approved the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board agreement;
- Approved depositing credit card payments through Square into the Savings account instead of a separate account;
- Approved opting out of paying the employer portion of the Family & Medical Leave Act premium;
- Approved closing the office at noon and granting four hours of holiday leave on December 24.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____