

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, December 21, 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: Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, Sandy Letzing, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, opened the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the November 16th Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris gave a report on the NRCS irrigation program, the requirements and the alternatives to the program. The program helps growers to water at the best time with the best equipment. The last date to turn in applications is March 16.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike gave updates as items came up in the agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The District has Shell Fleet cards to use for purchasing gas for the District vehicles. The only Shell station in Ephrata just changed to another company. Peggy recommended lowering the balance on her Wells Fargo credit card by \$500 and issuing a new card to Mark Amara to use for gas and repairs to the blazer.

Peggy also recommended allowing Valerie to move the use of two of her Annual Leave days for 2017 to 2018 for a planned trip to visit family in Alaska.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a Wells Fargo credit card for Mark Amara; and approve Valerie's use of 2017 Annual Leave in 2018. (Unanimous)

The District electronic storage is reaching maximum capacity. Valerie's computer, which links office computers to the printers, is starting to have issues. Peggy recommended that the Board authorize upgrading Valerie's computer and purchase additional storage, at a cost of about \$5,000.

M/S/C Roger moved and Hal seconded to authorize upgrading Valerie's computer and purchasing additional storage for electronic files. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Extension of Task Order 3: Task Order 3 has been extended until the end of February 2018.

Irrigation Efficiencies: Mike and the Board discussed the meeting of the Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company Board. Ken is assisting with GIS mapping and documentation of what has changed over time. The Board then discussed other potential projects that would benefit with irrigation efficiencies funding.

Entiat Watershed Projects: The construction budget for the E&F projects were submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). A new task order is in progress for projects in the Entiat.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: The City of Wenatchee and the District are working together to remove the juniper plants at the north end of town. The agreement between the City and the District is a 5 year master agreement that will allow for future joint projects in addition to the juniper removal project. The Board was asked to approve the master agreement.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve the Master Agreement with the City of Wenatchee. (Unanimous)

Other Projects & Programs:

Urban Ag Program: An after school gardening program is starting in January at a couple of local elementary schools. Seeds were donated for the program. Sandy and Justine will be working with the students.

Sandy continues to work on other grant applications to help fund the community garden program.

Sustainable Forests Program: The District, in partnership with the Columbia Breaks Interpretive Center, received notice that a grant was awarded for sustainable forests and an after school forest program. The Joint Chiefs grant for forest service treatments wasn't funded initially, however, an updated proposal was put forth and we are awaiting notice.

Justine presented an idea to the staff for a program that could dovetail with the forest work. The program involves volunteers splitting wood and delivering it to folks that need the help. She's talked with the Community Action Council and food banks that are more involved with customers in the valley, and who know where the needs are.

Upper Wenatchee Restoration Project: The District has a contract with Washington RC&D to support them with the Upper Wenatchee Restoration Project. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for contract NEPA work is currently in the development stage for bids to do an analysis. The District's role is to track matching funds and help facilitate meetings.

Icicle Workgroup: Mike was approached at the last meeting and asked if the District staff would be able to assist the workgroup with outreach work. The Board discussed the options

available, the time needed from District staff, and the funding available to cover staff time. The Board would like to have more information regarding outreach content and expectations from the workgroup.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Mike and Jim attended the recent VSP meeting and shared the meeting details with the rest of the District Board members. They then discussed what steps have been taken to date, and what steps to focus on in the future.

Vets on the Farm: Mike talked with the Board about Jason's involvement in the program. He and the Board discussed the direction the planning efforts should focus on. More information will come at the next Board meeting.

WACD Annual Meeting: Roger reported on the topics and discussions held at the Annual Meeting. A spokesperson talked about the progress of the Columbia River Treaty, and the group discussed the resolution regarding the number of votes to be allowed per district, among other topics.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) VEBA Program: The Board and staff discussed the benefits and options with the VEBA Program. Staff decided they would like to participate in the program. The Board was asked to adopt Resolution 2017-6, HRA VEBA.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve Resolution 2017-6 HRA VEBA. (Unanimous)

2018 Supervisor Election Report: No applications have been received for the elected supervisor position. Names may be written in on the ballot at the election booth. The Board may appoint someone to fill the position should no one be elected.

NEW BUSINESS

Office Lease Renewal: The District two year office lease is due for renewal in 2018. Peggy has talked to Joe Pitt and a proposal will be presented at the January meeting.

District Vehicle Surplus: The Board and staff discussed the idea of replacing the S-10 pickup with an economic vehicle for commuting to meetings and trainings. Board approval to surplus the S-10 pickup was requested.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve the surplus of the S-10 pickup, and search for an economic vehicle. (Unanimous)

Junell volunteered to oversee the replacement vehicle considerations.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved a Wells Fargo credit card for Mark Amara; and approve Valerie's use of 2017 Annual Leave in 2018;
Authorized upgrading Valerie's computer and purchasing additional storage for electronic files;
Approved the Master Agreement with the City of Wenatchee;
Approved Resolution 2017-6 HRA VEBA;
Approved the surplus of the S-10 pickup, and search for an economic vehicle.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____