

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, February 16, 2017
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Junell Wentz, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

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

GUESTS: Kevin Overbay, County Commissioner; and Jim Bailey, Wenatchee City Council.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Craig Gyselinck, Valerie Hampton and Nada Wentz.

Hal Hawley, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Craig introduced guests Kevin Overbay, the newly elected Chelan County Commissioner, and Jim Bailey, Wenatchee City Councilman. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and gave brief descriptions of their jobs and their association with the District. The group discussed the programs they are involved with, as well as what each entity is responsible for. Jim invited Kevin and Jim Bailey to come to the Annual Planning meeting in March when the Board and staff review the goals for the year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the January 11 Special District and January 19 Regular District meetings; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

Roger had out of town commitments this week and couldn't attend the meeting today. He will review the books with Nada when he returns. The Line of Credit balance is being paid with the help of recently received grant reimbursements.

CORRESPONDENCE

Peggy received word that the District is up for an Accountability Audit covering the years 2014-2016. The State Auditor's Office will conduct the audit, and the cost will be around \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Wells Fargo sent a letter about changes they recently made to their accounts. They are switching the District's accounts over to government accounts. Peggy will contact the bank to ask if they can offer larger lines of credit to the District and will report the information at the next meeting. She recommends that the District remain with Wells Fargo if they can offer larger credit lines.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Sarah Troutman's report was emailed to the Board. Chris reported that February 17 is the second Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline. The third deadline is in April for salmon recovery and forest health projects. NRCS did not receive any local Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications this round. Chris would like to approach some of the larger forest landowners and orchardists to encourage their involvement with CSP. There are a lot of opportunities. He hopes to be able to fund a salmon project near Peshastin this year.

PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

Craig and Roger went to Legislative Days in Olympia, along with other area district staff. Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) asked the districts to stress the need to maintain the base funding for conservation work. Districts plan to do a follow-up with the representatives reminding them of the funding issues.

The Washington State Conservation Commission is not participating in the Forest Resiliency Round Table group. Craig said he'd look into the reason and report back to the Board. Bob Shroeter was asked to attend for WACD, but no information has been received from him yet. Jim stressed the importance of staying aware of what is going on.

Since the Rates & Charges were put into effect, there has been a lot more interest in what kind of work the District does. The mayor of Cashmere asked Craig to give a presentation at one of their meetings. The date has yet to be scheduled. The mayor of Chelan is trying to develop a plan and identify responsibilities among various agencies before another fire season hits. Craig would like to have a few Board members attend these meetings with him to show support. Jim said that he is interested.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Peggy gave her report on project updates under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Cost Share Projects: The District was awarded \$20,000 to \$30,000 under the Non-Shellfish grant to complete the Scout-A-Vista project. Peggy asked the Board to approve the cost share project.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the cost share project with Scout-A-Vista.
(Unanimous)

A planned \$7,000 cost share project will not be completed under the current Implementation grant. Peggy will work with the Conservation Commission to revise the grant outcomes and budget.

Irrigation Efficiencies: The Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan kick-off meeting for Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District is this Friday.

Firewise Funding: The DNR Firewise money ran out, so staff are now working from the Commission Firewise funds. Craig said that Patrick is looking into four different Firewise communities and plans for the scope of work.

Fire Recovery: Peggy has heard from other districts requesting cultural resources work. She asked the districts to get their projects turned in fast so Mark and Kim have enough time to do the reviews so they can implement the work before the end of the biennium in June.

NRCS Task Orders: There are two contracts that need to be finished by the end of June.

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): Craig reported that BOR announced today that they have received construction authority. They don't have the funding yet but they are confident that they will have that soon. Project planning will continue throughout 2017. The plans will be finalized in 2018, Project E will be constructed in 2019, and Project F will be built in 2020. There is a lot of work to do, but the forward movement seems promising.

Department of Ecology (DOE): DOE is doing a five year watershed monitoring program throughout Chelan County. The District asked DOE to contact Jason when they plan to sample in the Entiat River so Jason can coordinate with the other groups that are also monitoring there.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: No additional information was reported.

Other Projects & Programs:

Palouse Conservation District Cooperative Agreement: Palouse CD asked the District for assistance with fire recovery cultural resources work. Board approval is needed.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Palouse Conservation District. (Unanimous)

Hal signed the agreement.

King County Conservation District: Valerie reported that King County CD is working on a draft agreement for cultural resources assistance on their Firewise program. For now, Mark Amara's literature review can be done from a distance and the District can bill King CD without a formal agreement. Because this is a pilot project, they may not need an agreement at this time. An agreement will be needed if they decide to continue the project for a longer term.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Contract: DNR wants to contract with the District for \$15,000 in funding to support the chipping program in Chelan instead of doing another cost share program. The Board was asked to approve the contract.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the DNR contract for \$15,000 to support the chipping program in Chelan. (Unanimous)

The Board had a brief discussion about other options and opportunities for the chipping program.

PUD - Lake Chelan Easements: Craig reported that he has been working with the Chelan County PUD on a new agreement for the District's assistance on the conservation easements in

the Lake Chelan area. The PUD would like to put a new agreement in place instead of amending the old agreement again. The new agreement would have similar language, but extend the end date through December 2017. Craig expects the work will be completed by the end of the year. The appraisal work should be done by the end of April. He recommended approval of the new agreement.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the new Chelan County PUD agreement for the Lake Chelan conservation easement work. (Unanimous)

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF): BEF informed the District that there is one more year of funding left. BEF will be sending the final \$25,000 contract for signature.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): BPA is sending a new contract for one more year of Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP) work. The funding amount for this grant is \$25,000. The Board and staff briefly discussed some of the work done under these grants. The Board was asked to approve both new contracts, BEF and BPA.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the new contracts for BEF and BPA, for \$25,000 each. (Unanimous)

Pending Grant Applications: Craig has been working on a grant application through DNR. The District can apply for up to \$220,000, but there needs to be a dollar for dollar match. Craig would like to apply for this funding to be used for Forest Health and Urban Forestry projects. He recommended that the District use the Rates & Charges (R&C) funds to secure the required match. The goal would be to apply for additional matching funds grants, and use the R&C funds as needed to fill in the amount of match required to implement the projects.

Craig asked for Board approval to apply for the \$220,000. Further Board action will be requested if the application is approved, and when the status of other funding requests may be identified.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the DNR grant application, using R&C funds as needed to secure the match requirement. (Unanimous)

Craig will submit a letter of intent to apply, and prepare a list of all the partner agencies with a description of their proposed activities. Work would start in 2018. Craig already received an offer for one letter of support. He will be seeking other letters.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Special District and Annual Planning Meeting in the Columbia Conference Room on Friday, March 17, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

The Executive Session was postponed until the next meeting. Three employee evaluations will be reviewed at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved the cost share project with Scout-A-Vista;
- Approved the Cooperative Agreement with Palouse Conservation District;
- Approved the DNR contract for \$15,000 to support the chipping program in Chelan;
- Approved the new Chelan County PUD agreement for the Lake Chelan conservation easement work;
- Approved the new contracts for BEF and BPA, for \$25,000 each;
- Approved the DNR grant application, using R&C funds as needed to secure the match requirement.

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____