

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, February 17, 2023**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Junell Wentz, Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Kaputa, Director of Chelan County Department of Natural Resources, Mike Baden, WSCC; Jeff Pierce, Fire Marshall; and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom.

Dillon Miller, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jeff Pierce, the Fire Marshall at Holden Village, attended to see what the District is doing. He extended a “thank you” to Patrick and Joe for conducting a third-party defensible space assessment around the village. They have been a great resource and support. He also appreciates the efforts from the District.

Consent Agenda: Approve the January 20 Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the December Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of bills.

Valerie handed out examples of how the new Springbrook (SBX) Treasurer’s Report will appear. This month’s Treasurer’s Report is a hybrid of the old system and the new.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CASCADE ORCHARDS IRRIGATION COMPANY (COIC) ASSISTANCE: Mike Kaputa

Mike handed out information regarding the Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company’s new intake project on the Icicle. He then reported on the effects the project will have for the Icicle Workgroup and the Cascade Orchards Irrigation Company, or COIC. Once the hatchery’s project is completed, the others using the old system will need a new way to pump water into their existing canal.

Mike described the need for the funding, the partners and equipment needed to get water pumped into the existing canal, and the plans set in place to proceed with the proposal. The District would be asked to hold a grant from the Conservation Commission starting summer of 2023 to help fund the County’s management of the project. He then asked the Board members to consider giving their support to the COIC project.

Ryan indicated the proposed agreement with the Chelan County Natural Resources Department would be separate from the existing interlocal agreement, with more specific details covering the grant and each party’s responsibilities. After more discussion and questions for Mike, the Board

decided to enter the agreement in support of the COIC project and expressed their intent to accept the grant when it becomes available. Mike thanked the Board for their support.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to approve a stand-alone agreement with the Chelan County Natural Resources Department for the COIC specific project for funding. (Unanimous)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Frank Curtin

Frank was not available for this meeting.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC): Mike Baden

Mike Baden gave brief updates on the legislative front. The Commission is watching the Riparian Restoration and Election bills closely. The Governor's Riparian bill died early on, but a new bill was introduced that is pretty well supported by the Agriculture group. The Election bill moves forward steadily. It would require a study on conservation district elections, current costs and projected additional costs if included with the General Election. It is not widely supported by the conservation district community.

Other topics included the annual accountability checklist, legal requirements for districts and a report that is due to the Commission in July.

Grant Application and Contract Review and Approval

Grant Application: The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART application is for irrigation efficiencies and features a Beaver Dam Analog – aquatic work program that is still in development. The Board was asked to approve developing the application. A resolution will need to be adopted approving of the application submittal, pending Board approval.

Grant Contracts: The FEMA contract is for Chelan Defensible Space Phase 1. The work for this includes cost share for landowners to have home assessments, including mapping for first responders. The Board was asked to approve the grant and Executive Director signature on the contract.

ILA/MOU/MOA/Contracts: Data sharing agreement with WSU for their study titled “Biotic Responses to Beaver Dam Analogs.” The Board was asked to approve the agreement with the Executive Director's signature.

M/S/C Pete moved and Kurt seconded to approve the BOR WaterSMART application and contracts for Chelan Defensible Space Phase 1 and the Data Sharing agreement with WSU for study of Beaver Dam Analogs. (Unanimous)

OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report:

Operations Manual: Ryan went over the manual updates. A request was made to change the holiday title from 4th of July to Independence Day. Other topics included increasing the total credit card limit from \$7,500 to \$10,000, allowing Ryan to assign limits to each card; allowing supervisor mileage reimbursement to attend District meetings; vacation leave balance caps and annual carry over; sick leave documentation and doctor notes; and possible cell phone policies, including District cell phones, stipends for personal phone use and a phone app that tracks work related activity.

District Vehicle Update: The Blazer is leaking oil, and other fluids. Midvalley Auto said that needed repairs would be cost prohibitive. Ryan asked for Board approval to surplus the Blazer. During the field season, options of purchasing or renting another rig will be considered.

Office Space: Ryan hopes to have a draft office space lease soon for Board review.

March 2023 Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting is March 17, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:07 p.m., The Board entered Executive Session for one hour to discuss employee performance evaluations.

The Board resumed Regular Session at 5:10 p.m.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to approve the following employee evaluations:

- Ryan Williams 2022 Evaluation – Executive Director
- Alex Harwell 2022 Evaluation – Habitat Resource Specialist II
- Elizabeth Jackson 2022 Evaluation – Resource Specialist II
- Joe Hill 2022 Evaluation – Forest and Community Resilience Specialist II
- Patrick Haggerty 2021 Evaluation – Forestry Program Manager
- Valerie Hampton 2021 Evaluation – Financial Coordinator. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved stand-alone agreement with the Chelan County Natural Resources Department for the COIC specific project for funding;

Approved the BOR WaterSMART application and contracts for Chelan Defensible Space Phase 1 and the Data Sharing agreement with WSU for study of Beaver Dam Analogs;

Approved the following employee evaluations:

- Ryan Williams 2022 Evaluation – Executive Director
- Alex Harwell 2022 Evaluation – Habitat Resource Specialist II
- Elizabeth Jackson 2022 Evaluation – Resource Specialist II
- Joe Hill 2022 Evaluation – Forest and Community Resilience Specialist II
- Patrick Haggerty 2021 Evaluation – Forestry Program Manager
- Valerie Hampton 2021 Evaluation – Financial Coordinator.

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____