

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT AND ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING  
Upstairs Conference Room & Via Zoom  
Zoom Meeting ID: 912 6849 1817  
14 N Mission St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Friday, March 19, 2021  
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Amy Bridges, Auditor; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Ryan Williams and Nada Wentz.

OTHER PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Chris Wright, NRCS; and District staff: Elizabeth Jackson.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

**Consent Agenda:** Approve the Minutes of the February 19, 2021 Regular District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The District received notice of a water right application. There is a concern that water rights within the tributaries to the Columbia watershed will be purchased and moved out of these upper watershed areas, adversely affecting irrigation for ag land. The group discussed this at great length along with options to prevent water rights from being sold. The Board agreed that it is better to keep water rights within the watershed of origin and to support letters written to legislators stating that fact. Ryan will contact Representative Goehner requesting information about a public hearing and continue discussions with Craig Nelson regarding further development of this application.

M/S/C Jim moved and Dillon seconded to approve drafting a letter of support to keep local water rights within the watershed of their origin. (Unanimous)

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT – Chris Wright

NRCS is currently ranking Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications with plans to award them in a couple of weeks. Chris reported that the Forest Service building is being remodeled. NRCS and FSA will be out of the building during May and June.

Chris and Patrick will be doing a virtual forestry tour April 7 and 8. Chris appreciates being included in the program work.

## WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT – Mike Baden

Mike gave a brief report on the latest budget news and revenue forecast. The forecast is looking better than initially expected but the final budget outcome is still unknown. The Commission is tracking the Governor's budget items that affect program funding, as well as several bills that could provide work for districts through the Commission. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) is also monitoring the budget closely and hopes to push for more conservation technical funding.

The Commission continues to monitor the COVID-19 government guidelines pertaining to in office work and public meetings as the state moves into Phase 3 of the pandemic. Phase 3 bumps up the public meeting capacity to 50%. However, government offices are encouraged to continue conducting office work and meetings remotely. Updates will be posted on the Commission website.

The Commission moved to not certify the District election at their last meeting. The District can now request the Superior Court to set a date for a hearing to officially invalidate the February election. Once the Superior Court hearing is completed, the District can move forward with a new election process to fill the elected Supervisor position on the Board. Amy's application for the appointed Supervisor position was received by the Commission.

Mike noted there are changes to the Schedule 22 and attachments that are due in May. Other items included approval of \$50,000 task order match and a request to review and comment on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) program revisions.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Conservation Commission Projects:**

**Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):** Ryan reported on two NRI projects. One project will resume as soon as the weather allows. The second project's progress is unknown as the contractor is hard to contact. A determination about the second project will be made at the end of March. A forestry application was dropped off this week. It could be an alternate project.

**Chipper Purchase Update:** A request to purchase the twelve-inch gas chipper was sent to FMI Equipment on Wednesday. Fire District 3 will provide training for anyone who will be using the machine. Ryan and Patrick will attend the training as well as oversee District use of the chipper to maintain uniformity in its operation.

The agreement with DOE is for five years. An agreement with Fire District 3 is being drafted for storage and maintenance as well as the training. The agreement will be reviewed by Enduris, the District's liability insurance provider, before it is signed. Hopefully, the chipper will be delivered before June.

#### **Project Updates by Region:**

**Lake Chelan Basin:** Water quality continues to be encouraged through the Keep It Blue Lake Chelan campaign. Ryan said the meeting in Chelan was interesting.

**Entiat Watershed:** Outreach work continues to engage the folks living in the valley. Due to Forest Service headquarters building renovations, a large wall poster was returned to the District that features pictures and short descriptions of the work and the people that were involved in getting the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit set up. Ray Sandidge was a key landowner in the

development of the watershed plan. The next District Conservation Quarterly will have an article about his involvement in the EWPU and his recent passing.

**Wenatchee Watershed/Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40):** Patrick is working on a social marketing program to be kicked off on April 5 at a neighborhood in south Wenatchee. The goal is to get a Wildfire Ready neighborhood started to share Firewise information and support for the folks living there. The Commissioner of Public Lands will be in attendance.

**Approve Grant Applications / Contracts as Follows:**

**Conservation Partners Pre-proposal:** Elizabeth Jackson, the District's new Resource Specialist, introduced herself to the Board and briefly described the goals of the grant application. The funding would provide technical assistance to upgrade irrigation systems. The main goal is to increase water savings and improve water quality for aquatic species.

**NOAA B-WET Application:** B-WET stands for Bay Watershed Education and Training that supports watershed educational experiences for K – 12 students. The Cascade Fisheries application includes the District as a project partner and would support the Kids in the Creek and Kids in the Forest programs through funding for Kirk's participation.

**Cost Share Contract – Warman:** The scope of work is to replace a failed water line and upgrade an irrigation system for about \$8,000. The funding is from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF).

**Cost Share Contract – Germaine:** The project work is for weed control, planting and fencing on a site on Brender Creek. This project qualifies for Implementation Grant ORCA funds.

**Agreement with Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation:** The scope of work for this agreement is subcontracted to the District for lamprey eel monitoring coordination in the Entiat. The amount of the agreement is about \$10,000.

**Interlocal Agreements(s) with Foster Creek CD:** The agreement is backdated to January 2021 and provides for either district to assist the other, with updates such as more flexible invoice frequency and the removal of an end date. Cascadia is currently assisting Foster Creek with bookkeeping.

M/S/C Jim moved and Dillon seconded to approve the following applications and contracts: Conservation Partners Pre-proposal, NOAA B-WET application, Warman Cost Share contract, Germaine Cost Share contract, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation agreement, and the Foster Creek CD interlocal agreement. (Unanimous)

**Scout-A-Vista Applicant Resolution 2021-3:** The Scout-A-Vista application requires an authorizing resolution from the Board.

M/S/C Amy moved and Jim seconded to adopt Resolution 2021-3, the Scout-A-Vista application authorization. (Unanimous)

**Rates & Charges Update:** Ryan and the Board discussed the Rates & Charges renewal process. A plan will be put together to set goals for each step of the process. Junell and Dillon will talk with the

new commissioners to help them understand why the District needs the renewal and what the funding is used for. The plan will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

**Election Update:** The Commission directed the District to ask the Superior Court to declare the January 2021 election invalid. It was recommended that the District's attorney assist with the process.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve having the District's attorney assist with filing for a Superior Court date and submission of the documents to invalidate the 2021 election.  
(Unanimous)

## NEW BUSINESS

**Approve Hiring Personnel:** Ryan recommended hiring a person to assist with the field work that needs to be done this summer. Current staff do not have enough hours available to cover the workload. The job would begin in June and continue through September 2021.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to approve hiring personnel to help with the workload from June through September 2021. (Unanimous)

**Approve Josh Koempel as Associate Supervisor Effective April 1:** Josh was asked to serve as an Associate Supervisor. He said he is willing to serve in that capacity. Board approval was requested.

M/S/C Jim moved and Dillon seconded to approve Josh Koempel as an Associate Supervisor effective April 1, 2021. (Unanimous)

**Program Director's Report:** Ryan was contacted by a non-profit organization about a pilot project to test electric tractors on a couple of farms. He was asked to write a letter of support.

Ryan asked for clarification on the process for approving grant applications. After some discussion it was recommended that Ryan talk to Junell in the event that a project needs to move toward a grant proposal sooner than an upcoming board meeting.

There is a current opportunity for applications to the US Forest Service Title II grant program. In the past, the need for portable toilets at trail heads was discussed. This project fits under the program but wouldn't provide funding for District time. The Board talked about ways to support this project and a potential application.

Ryan and Ken were contemplating applying for a Trout Unlimited (TU) grant to pay for a drone to conduct water quality monitoring. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) policy for our current grants does not allow reimbursement for the purchase as it is categorized as equipment. Staff are working on potential alternative funding.

**Set Schedule 22 Audit:** The Schedule 22 is due by the end of May as part of the Annual Financial Report. Valerie and the Board discussed the process and asked for an available Member to assist with the audit. Dillon is available to go over the audit with Valerie and Ryan on April 8.

Carol Cowling completed the Payroll Audit for 2020. She said the results were good, and she will send a letter to the Board with the report.

**Board Member Comments & Open Discussion:** The Commission sent Jim Bartelme a pin and certificate in recognition of his 10 years of service as a Board Member. The Board and District staff thanked him also.

Mike Baden, the Board and District staff expressed their thanks and well wishes to Peggy for over 34 years of faithful and dedicated service to the District, as well as best wishes upon her retirement. Peggy thanked everyone for their comments and stated that Ryan will do a great job running the District.

Josh was not able to attend the meeting today. He will be given an award with an engraved plate thanking him for his 17 years of dedication and service as a Board Member. He and Peggy will be missed!

**Set April 2021 Meeting Date and Agenda:** The next Regular Meeting is Friday, April 16, 2021, at 1:30.

#### ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION

Ryan met with staff to review and update items in the Annual Plan prior to the meeting. He went over the proposed changes with the Board. After further discussion, they agreed that Ryan will make the necessary edits to the Annual Plan draft and bring it to the April meeting for final review and approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

#### **Summary of Official Actions:**

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved drafting a letter of support to keep local water rights within the watershed of their origin;

Approved the following applications and contracts: Conservation Partners Pre-proposal, NOAA B-WET application, Warman Cost Share contract, Germaine Cost Share contract, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation agreement, and the Foster Creek CD interlocal agreement;

Approved adoption of Resolution 2021-3, the Scout-A-Vista application authorization;

Approved having the District's attorney assist with filing for a Superior Court date and submission of the documents to invalidate the 2021 election;

Approved hiring personnel to help with the workload from June through September 2021;

Approved Josh Koempel as an Associate Supervisor effective April 1, 2021.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ASSISTANT \_\_\_\_\_