

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor; Dillon Miller, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; Stan Janowicz and Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the March 19th Special District and Annual Planning meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris introduced Stan Janowicz, the acting District Conservationist from Okanogan. Both Stan and Chris emphasized the lack of NRCS staff to administer the program work they have lined up. Partnership with conservation districts, particularly assistance with cultural resource work, is needed and appreciated.

Mike Baden, WSCC, said the Commission is meeting with NRCS next week to work on their five year agreement. The Commission is committed to continuing the development of task orders.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) deadline is Friday, April 19. The Local Work Group meeting will be at the Fire Hall in Chelan on April 22, from 6 to 9 pm.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Annual financial reports as well as annual and long range plans are due soon. The Commission will finalize the district supervisor elections and appointments on May 16.

The State Conservation Commission appointed Carol Smith as the new director, beginning May 1. Ray Ledgerwood retires in June and Shana Joy is filling his position. Alison will fill in during Ron Shultz's medical leave.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff from the Commission as well as staff from Okanogan and Cascadia recently gave input to our local legislators regarding the biennial budget. They encouraged support of funding for educational programs such as Kids in the Forest. They also shared the Era of Mega Fires documentary in support of healthy forest program funding.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Woods Investment Company, LLC, is selling the El Mundo building. The parking lot next to the building is part of the sale. Alternate staff parking will be provided, but the parking rent will increase from \$10 to \$20 per space. The parking space rent will increase by \$120 a month.

Peggy asked the Board for approval to surplus the trailer that was used to haul the power wagon.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve the surplus of the trailer. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Cost Share Project: The Board was asked to approve an irrigation cost share project for Susan Curtis on 7 ½ acres of organic mixed vegetables.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve the Susan Curtis cost share project. (Unanimous)

Implementation Grant: The grant funds for Implementation will likely be expended by the end of April. Rates and Charges funds will cover work to be done from May until July 1.

Equipment Needs: The Commission is asking districts to make requests for possible end of the year funding, with a limit of \$7,000. Peggy and the Board discussed the current electronic and project equipment needs. The Board suggested we ask for specific amounts to help cover the cost of each item and find other funding sources to cover the balance.

Project Updates by Region:

Lake Chelan Basin: Lake Chelan is moving forward with plans to treat the invasive species in the lake. Mike will be presenting District program information to the city council. The Board briefly discussed the upcoming free dump day event and the chipping programs.

Entiat Watershed: Three quotes were received for the aerial imaging work. Aerial pictures taken during low and high flows would be useful information for project monitoring. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) contract includes two flights. Additional funds would need BOR approval to increase the flights from two to four, to get photos for both before and after the Entiat project work. The Board was asked to appoint a Member to review the quotes and approve awarding the contract. Dillon was appointed.

Wenatchee Watershed: There are no big updates in the Wenatchee Watershed. Three of the five Biological Assessments (BA) have been completed.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40) & Stemilt Partnership: Mike gave a brief report on the land purchased in the Stemilt basin for habitat and the Stemilt Partnership. He asked the Board for their advice regarding meeting attendance or membership in the group. The Board advised that attendance at the meetings is good as long as the work supports the mission of the District.

Other Updates:

Icicle Workgroup: There will be a workgroup meeting next month. The work is ongoing.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Mike and the Board discussed the events of the last VSP meeting and what steps to take moving forward.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) & Hazard Mitigation Plan: The CWPP is in line with the Forest Service program requirements for healthy forests. The document will be ready to sign within the next week or two. Board Member signature will be needed at that time. The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been delayed.

Grant Applications: A proposal was submitted to the Yakama Nation for cultural resource work.

Review & Approve 2019 – 2020 Annual Plan: The Annual Plan was updated since the last meeting. Edits include comments made by the Board and staff. The Board was asked to review and approve the finalized plan.

M/S/C Roger moved and Dillon seconded to approve the 2019 – 2020 Annual Plan. (Unanimous)

Vehicle Purchase or Lease: The Board and staff discussed whether to purchase or lease a district vehicle for commuting to trainings and meetings. The Board asked that more research be done for comparisons between the state leasing program and purchasing locally. The information will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Needs: The Board was asked to approve advertising for a Resource Technician to do monitoring and maintenance work on project sites. Sandy would normally do the work, but she will be on maternity leave. This is a temporary position, lasting about four or five months.

M/S/C Roger moved and Junell seconded to approve advertising and hiring a Resource Technician. (Unanimous)

The application for an AmeriCorps placement was withdrawn. The program cost and the paperwork have increased to the point of not being cost effective.

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved the surplus of the trailer;
- Approved the Susan Curtis cost share project;
- Approved the 2019 – 2020 Annual Plan;
- Approved advertising and hiring a Resource Technician.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____