

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
3:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Isenhart, guest; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, MarySutton Carruthers and Nada Wentz.

Junell Wentz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wendy said the chipping program is going well in the Chelan area.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application deadline has passed. NRCS is now in the planning stages with the current applications for fire recovery, chipping and air quality, high tunnels and habitat projects.

Sarah Troutman will be back in the Okanogan office on June 3. Alan McBee will be assisting East Area as well as Central Area.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike reported on the progress of fuel reduction alternatives and various meetings. He also discussed new hires for temporary positions for the District, wildfire preparedness funding, and updates on Chelan County's discussion regarding possible adoption of a wildland-urban interface (WUI) code.

The Governor made a drought declaration for Chelan County yesterday. Mike talked about outreach opportunities he's working on.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Status of Projects: The latest Implementation voucher has not been finished yet. The grant funds are likely to be expended.

Master Contract with Commission: The Board was asked to approve the new Master Contract with the Commission.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Roger seconded to approve the Master Contract with the Commission.
(Unanimous)

Equipment Needs: The District put in a request for \$7,000 from potential end of the year funding. The District would use funds toward the purchase of a new server and two new laptops. It will be June before it is known if the funding will be granted.

Project Updates by Region:

Lake Chelan Basin: The free dump days were very successful. The number of folks taking advantage of the opportunity increases each year. The Mayor of Chelan secured some additional funding to continue free dump days every weekend through the end of May.

Canopy Assessment: MarySutton reported that the project solicitation went out but the proposals were higher than the budgeted funding. The City of Chelan offered to contribute \$4,000 toward the cost. The contract was signed last Friday, and the project is moving forward.

Entiat Watershed:

Awarding of Riparian Planting Bid: The Riparian Planting portion of the Entiat River Gray Area E project went out to bid separately from the main project. Bids for the planting portion are due on May 30 at 10:00 a.m. A Board member is needed to review and award the project. Junell is available and offered to award the bid that afternoon.

Drone Flights: Outreach efforts were made by phone and mail to inform Entiat landowners about the upcoming aerial imaging drone flights. The flights may start as early as Wednesday, and Ken will be available should landowners have further questions.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG): CCFEG has a grant to do a barrier assessment. They asked the District to help with outreach through a mailer to go out within the next two weeks, and to be a contact for questions. Board approval of an agreement with CCFEG to do this work was requested. It is an overall agreement, needing Board signature. Mike is authorized to sign the work orders.

M/S/C Roger moved and Dillon seconded to approve the agreement with CCFEG. (Unanimous)

Interviews for the Resource Technician position will start tomorrow. The Technician will be conducting monitoring and data collection.

Wenatchee Watershed: The chipping program is in progress in the Lake Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Plain, Peshastin, Cashmere, Entiat and Chelan areas. Work continues with the Joint Chiefs in Lake Wenatchee, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and firewise education. The Kids in the Forest program is going well. Classes are held at Mission Ridge, Tall Timbers, and at the Entiat fire interpretive center.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40) & Stemilt Partnership: The group meets quarterly to discuss planning efforts in the Stemilt and Squilchuck areas. The county is working on the adoption of a recreation plan for the area.

Other Updates:

Icicle Workgroup: The work is ongoing and the workgroup is still receiving letters of support.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): There is a VSP meeting on Thursday night at the Chelan fire station. The next regular meeting date is May 28. Mike and the Board discussed some of the events and next steps.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) & Hazard Mitigation Plan: The CWPP will be annexed into the Hazard Mitigation Plan when approved. All the signatures for approval have been obtained for the CWPP. Mike will report the progress to the Board at the next District meeting.

Grant Applications: Staff are preparing a proposal for additional funding for the Kids in the Forest program.

Vehicle Purchase or Lease: Further research and comparisons regarding a state leased vehicle versus vehicle purchase have not been completed yet since Annual Financial Reports have been the focal point for Peggy and Valerie for the last month. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Employment Items:

New Position Descriptions, Wage Schedule & Staff Promotion: The Board briefly reviewed the wage schedule and discussed the position descriptions. The new positions require people with different skill sets. The teaching position would have an entry level rate with the availability to move up by step increases. The program manager position has more responsibility and will include most of Patrick's current duties. The Board was asked to approve the two new position rate schedules and approve Patrick's promotion to Forestry Program Manager with a Step Increase.

M/S/C Roger moved and Dillon seconded to approve the two new position rate schedules and the promotion for Patrick to Forestry Program Manager with a Step Increase. (Unanimous)

Hiring Part-Time Environmental Educator:

The Board was asked to approve the advertisement and hiring of a part time environmental educator.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Roger seconded to approve advertising for and hiring a part time environmental educator. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved the Master Contract with the Commission;
- Approved the agreement with CCFEG;
- Approved the two new position rate schedules and the promotion for Patrick to Forestry Program Manager with a Step Increase;
- Approved advertising for and hiring a part time environmental educator.

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____