

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Monday, June 19, 2017
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; Roger Wristen, Auditor; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; and Junell Wentz, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Mike Cushman, Jason Sims, Valerie Hampton and Nada Wentz.

Hal Hawley, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the May 18th Regular Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The Conservation Commission sent the official notice that the supervisor election for Junell Wentz was approved.

The Dryden Transfer Station sent a notice regarding their policy changes at the dump site. They no longer accept trees and brush from the apple maggot quarantine areas.

Enduris sent a ballot for their Board of Directors election.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris reported that last Friday was the deadline for the third and final round of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications. Of the ten applications received, nine have been approved. The tenth will be reserved for next year giving them time to do some thinning. Okanogan had 42 applications. Forestry is a big component now and going forward. Patrick sent a lot of folks to Chris for assistance.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has never thrived in Chelan County. CSP is a program that pays annually for good farm practices. NRCS just increased the minimum payment hoping to encourage more farmers to apply. Chris asked that the District send forest farmers his direction. He will be out of the office for a few days, but Joe Lange will cover for him.

Roger commended Chris for jumping into his position at the Wenatchee office with both feet on the ground running.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT

Mike Baden was not able to attend and asked Peggy to share his updates. He will be at the next Regular Board meeting on July 20. A packet was sent out early in May to district supervisors for their review and comment. The Commission is planning a policy meeting to be held in Ellensburg later in August. The need for buildings for conservation district offices and long term sustainable funding will be some of the topics for discussion. District supervisors and administrators are encouraged to attend. Peggy will notify the Board when the meeting date is set.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Cushman met with staff to review their schedules and duties to discuss where we want to go from here. Spreadsheets were created to track duties and staff availability, as well as track the changes as they come. He wants to understand the needs and gaps and align the work with the current trend. Habitat and forest health are gaining momentum. Education and outreach are also important areas to cover. Mike asked for input and invited the Board to review the spreadsheets with him.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Commission Master Contract: A hard copy of the Master Contract was received from the Commission. Josh and Hal signed the Contract. The Board was asked to approve the master contract, retroactive to June 15. Once approved, the contract will be mailed back. The next two years of implementation funding is expected to be ready to go as soon as the State budget is in place.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve the Conservation Commission Master Contract, retroactive to June 15, 2017. (Unanimous)

Commission Grants Currently Closing: The two TSP grants are closed out. The Implementation (IM) grant is done. The Irrigation Efficiencies (IE), Firewise, Fire Recovery and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) grants will all close on June 30. All items pertaining to the closing grants need to be paid by the end of the month. Peggy is hoping money will come in to cover any bills pertaining to grants. If money does not come in, she will use the Line of Credit until the District is reimbursed.

The Commission awarded \$7,000 to the District for computer and vehicle-related items. New tires will be purchased for the Sierra and five new computers will be bought to replace outdated computers. All items need to be purchased and in hand by June 30.

Lake Chelan Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Project: The project is in progress with Mark and Kim currently doing on site cultural resource work. Olin Excavation was awarded the bid under the Limited Public Works policy.

Entiat Watershed Projects: Jason is working on a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) application with the Forest Service to do creek assessments in the Entiat. The meeting generated feedback and offered a good opportunity to partner with them and open the door for other funding.

The SRFB application rating round was held last week. The Entiat Assessments are in a good position for consideration.

The Entiat projects are moving forward with plans to implement construction in 2019 or 2020. The July Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) meeting was pushed back a week to July 12 because of the July 4 holiday. Jason has been working on the comprehensive outreach draft and getting reviews before he presents it to the EWPU group at the next meeting. Entiat River Appreciation is set for Saturday, July 29. Numerica Credit Union is interested in partnering with the District, and the PUD is looking into available help.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: The Icicle River SRFB project has a little opposition. Mike hopes to contact other agencies for Icicle River project funding. Water rights in the Leavenworth area are in the process of validation and project plans are moving forward. He is going out to check on a water conveyance problem with Jack Myrick from the Conservation Commission.

Landowners that have homes and property in the canyon drainage areas, are another area of concern. Landowners don't have much information about, or help with protection. One solution may be to get a group of the landowners together to implement some Best Management Practices (BMP). Otherwise, we can work with the individual landowners. Funding is needed to support the urban programs.

The Drinking Water Outreach program for the Icicle Watershed was kicked off last week. The group is currently structuring the outreach plan. There was discussion about creating a video for folks to watch when they purchase their hiking or camping permits.

Mike met with Mike Burnett and Mike Kaputa regarding the FEMA funds received by the County to redo roofs in the urban interface area.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): Jason and Mike met with the folks at UCSRB to discuss the contract and the possibility of changing some of the contract language to include additional funding and education and outreach efforts. UCSRB was supportive of the ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Recommendations: Peggy recommended that this topic be discussed after the end of the biennium. That will allow a little more time to see how the state budget shakes out.

Staff Leave: Mike will be on vacation from June 29 through July 20. Amanda will be on leave about the same time. Patrick has some time scheduled, Sandy will be gone June 26 – 29, and Jason will be gone the first week of July. Peggy will be gone a couple of days this week. Valerie is planning on about three weeks in August to be with her family.

DNR: Jim would like more information about the new agreement between DNR and the Regional Forest Service. He wants to find out what is going on and see a copy of the document. Mike Cushman said that he will ask Patrick to be in on the upcoming conference call, June 27.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the Conservation Commission Master Contract, retroactive to June 15, 2017.

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____