

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING**

**Via Conference Call: Telephone (605) 313-4838 Access code 488254#  
14 N Mission St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Friday, July 17, 2020  
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; Jim Bartelme, Member; and Dillon Miller, Auditor. (*Dillon called in but had poor cell reception.*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Bridges, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Sandy Letzing, Patrick Haggerty, MarySutton Carruthers and Nada Wentz. All attendees were present via telephone conference call.

Josh Koempel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

Approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2020 Special District Meeting, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

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

The Commission is still monitoring the budget situation. It is unknown when the legislature will deal with the shortfall. A special session is still being considered, but there may be no action until the regular session in January 2021. Districts are encouraged to be as frugal as they can.

The Commission is working on the new budget decision package with a 50% cut worked in. The goal this fiscal year is to put a plan together with minimal effects to districts. The conservation technical assistance portion of the budget is to prioritize the important areas to fund. Some of those areas are forest and range health, and support for food producers. The Commission voted on a \$5 million budget to keep the work going.

There are a couple of new task orders coming that are already funded. One is through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the other is a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funded task order. Patrick took part in a conference call with the Commission regarding the hazard mitigation program.

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Peggy Entzel**

Peggy will be taking some time off next week. Board and staff members will be notified what those days will be. All other reports will be given with the correlating agenda item.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Project Updates:** The new Implementation 21 grant began the first of July. There was no funding left from the Implementation 20 grant. Most of the Task Orders have been completed and closed out. One of the projects with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was turned back because it could not be finished due to NRCS COVID regulations. Work also stopped on a second task with NRCS but it was close to completion.

Peggy asked Mike Baden about funding for Irrigation Efficiencies and he thought that the funding pot would be the same amount.

Patrick reported on his work with FEMA grants, Firewise community coordination, mobile mapping, and the progress of the North Central Washington (NCW) Forest Health Collaborative. He briefly discussed some other opportunities to work with landowners. More details will be brought to the Board next month. The Chipping program wrapped up in June and the Social Marketing program should get started this fall, depending on what is allowed with social gatherings.

Sandy said that there are four Natural Resource Investment (NRI) projects. Two are in the process of implementation now. The other two will be implemented in the fall. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) projects are currently underway. Department of Ecology (DOE) riparian planting projects will start at the end of August. The District received 10 requests for cost share projects and 50 technical assistance calls.

MarySutton discussed the approach for the most recent Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding that includes collaboration with agencies that work well together. The Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) meeting is scheduled for August, depending on COVID regulations. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) are starting their monitoring work. The District will assist with contacting landowners to let them know WDFW will be accessing their property. MarySutton hopes to have a brief report from the County about their recent activity of flying logs to project sites.

**Status Update on COVID-19 Response Plan and Possible Return to Work Timeline:** The Wenatchee World building is now open on a limited basis, so there is a potential for people to walk through the District office. Nada and Valerie have been covering the office to ensure security. Technically, it is still closed. Peggy and the staff will discuss a schedule for staff to have a limited in office work time as they are available. Other COVID restrictions have not changed that much.

**Program Director Hiring Update:** The position has been advertised in newspapers and on the web page. The position remains open until August 7. The resumes will be evaluated and the top 4 will be selected for interviews. Amy and Junell offered to serve on the review panel. A couple of folks from partner agencies will be asked to serve on the panel as well. It was suggested that a representative of DNR also be on the panel.

**Review and Update Interlocal Agreements:** Peggy asked to table this item until a later date.

**Grant Applications / Contracts:** Sandy had been working on an application that, with further research, was not a good fit for the District. Ken is revamping a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project. Updates of the progress will be brought to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

**Approve Work Order 2020-1 with Cascade Fisheries for Environmental Education Assistance:**

The District has an overall agreement with Cascade Fisheries, formerly Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG), for Environmental Education Assistance. One of their staff is working with Kirk to develop and implement the program. Some of the grant funds were to be spent on student field trips, which are not allowed now due to COVID restrictions. The grantor is allowing a shift from funding field trips to development of virtual educational lessons and self-guided field trips.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve Work Order 2020-1 with Cascade Fisheries for Environmental Education Assistance. (Unanimous)

**Set August Meeting Date and Agenda:** The next Regular Meeting is on Friday, August 21, at 1:30. Information will be provided later as to whether the meeting will be in person or a conference call.

Peggy and the Board discussed alternative dates and options for the next meeting. The 21<sup>st</sup> is also the day set to interview applicants for the Program Director position. Peggy, Junell and Amy will be on the interview panel and not available for the Board meeting.

A Board decision regarding the Hazard Mitigation work Patrick is involved with must be made before the end of August. The Board decided to leave the meeting date as it is, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and delegate Josh to review the Hazard Mitigation package and make the decision.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve delegating the final review and approval of the Hazard Mitigation package to Josh Koempel, Chairman. (Unanimous)

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**Summary of Official Actions:**

Approved the Consent Agenda;  
Approved Work Order 2020-1 with Cascade Fisheries for Environmental Education Assistance;  
Approved delegating the final review and approval of the Hazard Mitigation package to Josh Koempel, Chairman.

CHAIR\_\_\_\_\_

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