

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, July 20, 2017
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Hal Hawley, Vice Chair; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Junell Wentz, Member; and Roger Wristen, Auditor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Patrick Haggerty, Sandy Letzing, Mike Cushman, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, opened the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the June 19th Special District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

ITEMS NEEDING APPROVAL

Due to availability of a quorum, the following actions were taken at the beginning of the meeting:

Implementation Grant Addendum and a Cost Share Project: Staff asked for approval of the Implementation grant addendum with two intermediate outcomes, I.O. 1.0 – to cover technical assistance and I.O. 2.0 for \$7,000 for the Lowney project.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve the Implementation grant addendum task 1.0 for technical assistance, and task 2.0 the Lowney Cost Share project. (Unanimous)

Irrigation Efficiency Grant: Staff requested approval for the Irrigation Efficiency grant addendum for technical assistance. The agreement is the same as last year's, with the year and date updated to the current year.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve the Irrigation Efficiencies addendum 1.0 for technical assistance. (Unanimous)

Cultural Resources Task Order: There are nine projects needing approval. The total cost of the projects is about \$19,465.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve the Cultural Resources Task Order for nine projects. (Unanimous)

Cost Share Projects: The following projects have been ranked by the District staff, in order of priority. The Board was asked to approve the projects pending available funds, Board review and notification - working down the list as shown:

1. Anna & Alan Walter – fuels reduction – location #1
2. Sam Willsey – irrigation
3. Anna & Alan Walter – fuels reduction – location #2
4. Doug & Susan Walter – fuels reduction
5. Nil Sundquist – fuels reduction
6. Steve Gustafson – fuels reduction

Peggy said that the Board would be notified as each project is ready to begin and what funding is available to use.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve the cost share projects in the following order, pending funding: Alan Walter fuels reduction #1, Willsey irrigation, Alan Walter fuels reduction #2, Doug Walter fuels reduction, Sundquist fuels reduction, and Gustafson fuels reduction. (Unanimous)

Cost Share Resolution 2017-4: The cost share landowner matching rate changed from \$20 an hour to \$22 an hour. A new resolution reflecting the rate change is needed.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve Cost Share Resolution 2017-4. (Unanimous)

Urban Ag Grant: The Urban Ag program covers the Chelan County area and focuses on assistance for urban areas and Spanish speaking materials. The Board was asked to approve the grant contract.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve the Urban Ag grant contract. (Unanimous)

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) 2018 Contract: Peggy asked the Board to approve the 2018 contract with UCSRB that will keep the work between the two agencies moving forward.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve the UCSRB 2018 contract. (Unanimous)

Trout Unlimited (TU) Work Orders: The work orders with TU include cultural resource work in the Icicle Boulder Field and the Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID) projects. Board approval was requested to keep the current work going.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve the TU work orders for the Icicle Boulder Field and the IPID projects. (Unanimous)

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Peggy asked the Board to approve the District staff talking with the County and develop a contract detailing the VSP work to be done by both agencies. The contract would be reviewed by the Board once it is developed.

M/S/C Hal moved and Jim seconded to approve development of a VSP contract between the County and the District. (Unanimous)

Staff Position: Peggy and Mike met with staff to discuss current workload. There is enough of a work load that another person is needed. Peggy asked the Board to approve advertising for the position once the job description is finalized. Jim was appointed to oversee the job description.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve advertising for the job position, pending final review of the job description by a Board Member. (Unanimous)

AmeriCorps Intern: Peggy asked the Board to approve hiring a person for the AmeriCorps intern position. The District received three applications, two of which were interviewed and then declined. The third hasn't been interviewed yet.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve hiring for the AmeriCorps intern position. (Unanimous)

Peggy mentioned that staff discussed hiring an additional AmeriCorps intern. Mt. Adams AmeriCorps group has a program available that costs about \$19,000 a year. While the cost is higher, the level of experience is also higher. The program includes retraining for veterans. This could be researched further this fall. The Fish and Wildlife has expressed an interest in sharing the cost.

2018 UCSRB Science Conference: The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery holds a science conference every two years and they asked the District to sponsor the 2018 event with \$500. The District has helped coordinate past local conferences. Board approval to sponsor them was requested.

M/S/C Jim moved and Hal seconded to approve a \$500 sponsorship for the 2018 UCSRB Science Conference. (Unanimous)

Josh left the meeting at 3:50 p.m. Hal presided.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT – Christopher Wright

Chris reported that July 21 is the last day to get signatures on contracts. There are currently seven contracts, most are forestry and one is a fish passage contract. The 2018 projects will include irrigation efficiencies, pollinators and forestry work.

Chris was contacted by the landowners in the recently burned areas. He's looking into grazing rights elsewhere, and assistance for orchardists with scorched trees. Jim asked if there was a program to graze animals in some of the other local areas. Chris said he would look into emergency grazing.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT – Mike Baden

Mike reported that an operating budget is in place, but as of this moment we still do not have a capital budget. The legislative session ends today but may go into another session if the capital budget is not approved.

Non-Shellfish and irrigation efficiency projects are funded with the capital budget. Districts with these projects will be hit pretty hard. The Commission has a re-appropriation of funds from last year in place, but the balance won't be known until all the vouchers have been accounted for. Mike expects the implementation funds to be about the same as last year.

A VSP webinar is scheduled for July 21, from 9 – 10 a.m. Folks will hear about funding and how it will work out. District Annual Reports are due in August. He encourages districts to mention all the projects they can and yet, use simple terms, don't use acronyms and keep the reporting powerful. The two day policy meeting in Ellensburg is set for August 23 – 24. Some of the discussions will be conservation district buildings, confidentiality around stewardship plans in VSP, roles of the Commission and districts in habitat projects and permitting processes. Other topics are long term sustainable funding for the Commission and the equality of incentive based water quality programs to regulatory processes.

There is no funding for fire related projects this year. The best thing districts can do is keep an inventory of what is lost as landowners call in.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mike Cushman

Mike is meeting individually with staff to discuss their needs and goals for the District. He is also working on a report for Mike Baden that shows the funding shortage for projects supported under the Capital Budget, such as Non-Shellfish and Irrigation Efficiencies projects. He and the staff are discussing what projects can be worked on until the budget is agreed on by the legislature.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Peggy Entzel

Valerie will be taking three weeks of vacation in August, but she will be in the office for the Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Lake Chelan Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Contract: Mike discussed the EWP project, the permit process and what is included in that process. He also briefly touched on the changes in the Shoreline Master Program and the effects it has on the project.

Entiat Watershed Projects: The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is leading the NEPA process and continues to seek project funding. The District remains on track to implement projects in 2019-2020. Jason gave a presentation for the Mad River and Roaring Creek assessments. Staff are gearing up for the Entiat River Appreciation, on July 29.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects: Work continues on the Urban Ag grant, the clean water grant, and the forest signage. Sandy is working with DOE and looking into the Husseman grant.

Patrick and Amanda are involved with the outreach efforts for the chipping programs. Patrick is working with DNR for funds to continue the chipping program.

A public meeting is planned for coordination of efforts by agencies and the Weyerhaeuser Company regarding their logging practices. The Board expressed some concerns about public perception of District involvement, but they wish to remain informed of the meeting discussions.

Other Projects & Programs: The Icicle Workgroup has a meeting next week. The District was invited to attend and be a part of the group. Meeting information will be shared with the Board at the next District meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle Lease Opportunity: The State is giving the opportunity to conservation districts to lease company vehicles. One of the lease requirements is to put 10,000 miles a year on a rig. The District would have a hard time putting that many miles on a single rig.

Employment Items: Peggy asked that the employee evaluation scheduled for this meeting be tabled until the next Board meeting in August.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Regular District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 3:30 p.m.

Commission Policy Meeting: The meeting date is August 23 – 24, in Ellensburg. Mike Cushman, Jim and Roger are planning to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved the Implementation grant addendum task 1.0 for technical assistance, and task 2.0 the Lowney Cost Share project;
Approved the Irrigation Efficiencies Addendum 1.0 for technical assistance;
Approved the Cultural Resources Task Order for nine projects;
Approved the cost share projects in the following order, pending funding: Alan Walter fuels reduction #1, Willsey irrigation, Alan Walter fuels reduction #2, Doug Walter fuels reduction, Sundquist fuels reduction, and Gustafson fuels reduction;
Approved Cost Share Resolution 2017-4;
Approved the Urban Ag grant contract;
Approved the UCSRB 2018 contract;
Approved the TU work orders for the Icicle Boulder Field and the IPID projects;
Approved development of a VSP contract between the County and the District;
Approved advertising for the job position, pending final review of the job description by a Board Member;
Approved hiring for the AmeriCorps intern position;
Approved a \$500 sponsorship for the 2018 UCSRB Science Conference.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____