

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tuesday, August 27, 2019
3:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Koempel, Chair; Junell Wentz, Vice Chair; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dillon Miller, Member; and Roger Wristen, Auditor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Cole Provence, DOE; Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Peggy Entzel, Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, MarySutton Carruthers and Nada Wentz.

Junell Wentz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cole Provence works for the Department of Ecology (DOE) as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) lead in the Water Quality Program. He oversees Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas and Klickitat counties, coordinating work for projects. He offered assistance with grant applications and asked to be called if any algae issues are found in local waterways.

CORRESPONDENCE

The District received a letter requesting information and assistance for a cost share project. The Board discussed the details of the project, the different agencies that would be able to assist, and what the District could provide. Mike will follow up with a letter to summarize the information and help clarify how the cost share program works.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has a cherry Market Facilitation Program (MFP) going on now. The program helps to offset the impact of the tariffs. Interested cherry growers should talk to Anita at the FSA office. If folks have Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) work to do, please contact the NRCS office.

NRCS has a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign up this winter. Chris will share the details as they become available. There is a potential for District staff training to assist NRCS and task orders for planning in general. NRCS has been hiring staff to fill vacant positions. Alan McBee accepted a new position as State Conservationist in Alaska.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike included his report with the agenda items.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Peggy needs a Board member to sign checks to pay bills on Wednesday, and to sign payroll on Friday. Jim and Junell offered to sign checks on the two days needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Drought Project: A flyer with drought information and resources was mailed at the beginning of August. The Entiat water usage has been curtailed because of low flows. As of this date, the Wenatchee and Icicle areas have not been notified of curtailment.

Last week, summer technician Bonnie Meaux, along with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG), started taking down rock barriers in the streams. This work will continue through the end of October.

Josh Koempel, Chair; arrived and presided over the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the July 16th Regular 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)

Approve Orteg Riparian Restoration Cost Share Contract: The Board was asked to approve the Orteg contract for fencing and riparian restoration.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve the Orteg Riparian Restoration Cost Share Contract. (Unanimous)

Implementation Grant: The Implementation work is ongoing.

Project Updates by Region:

Lake Chelan Basin: MarySutton shared a success story from the Salmon Safe partnership. Diamondback Acres received a conditional certification to complete their program which includes a biodiversity and an invasive species plan. The certification covers three years.

Entiat Watershed: The Middle Entiat Gray reach project construction has been completed. Riparian planting will begin in October.

Wenatchee Watershed:

Beaver Dam Discussion: Trout Unlimited (TU), CCFEG and the District are working together on projects related to beaver dams and fish habitat. Mike, Cole and the Board discussed the topic further.

Pilot Projects: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working on potential pilot projects with the districts in our region, including possible cost share funds.

Drinking Water Partnership Program (DWPP) Status: MarySutton reported on the DWPP monitoring and data collection at campsites. The information is to be presented in a report to the Forest Service to aid them in their in management decisions. The Forest Service decided to restrict parking on the trailhead prior to the report presentation. The Board discussed the matter and the funding.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40): The Stemilt partnership has a meeting coming up later this month. There was a property owner that was severely affected during the recent rain storm. Some technical assistance was offered for a damaged intake.

Other Updates:

Legislative Meetings: Senator Brad Hawkins is hosting a Listening Tour next week. Mike and the Board discussed what topics to bring up during the meeting. Senator Patty Murray met with the post fire folks from Pateros, Okanogan, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the US Forest Service, NRCS, the National Weather Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the District, and the fire districts on Saturday. They discussed the gaps in what is needed before, during and after a fire.

Icicle Workgroup: A meeting is scheduled for September 12.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Mike gave a brief report on comments received regarding the letter to the County Commissioners about District involvement with the VSP program. The District will continue to engage with landowners to get work on the ground and report it in VSP as needed, but not actively participate in meetings.

Vehicle Lease through the Conservation Commission Update: The State is not currently issuing new leases for vehicles. It is not known when new lease contracts will be allowed. There was a very brief discussion about vehicle purchasing.

Employment / Staffing Update: Staff continue to work with other districts to fund and coordinate the duties for the future educator position.

Area Meeting Preparation: Any resolutions to be considered at the Area Meeting need to be approved by the Board at the District's September meeting. The Board briefly discussed a few concerns and decided not to prepare any resolutions. The Area Meeting will be October 17, in Mansfield, hosted by Foster Creek Conservation District.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Interlocal Agreement with Franklin Conservation District: The Board was asked to approve an interlocal agreement with Franklin CD for the Wheat Week education program. The \$8,000 funding is their contribution to the education program. The details still need to be finalized and an educator hired before the program can proceed.

M/S/C Junell moved and Jim seconded to approve the interlocal agreement with Franklin Conservation District for the Wheat Week program, pending final details. (Unanimous)

Next Meeting: The next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., in the Upstairs Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved the Orteg Riparian Restoration Cost Share Contract;
Approved interlocal agreement with Franklin Conservation District for the Wheat Week program,
pending final details.

CHAIR _____

VICE CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____