

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, September 17, 2021
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Bridges, Auditor; Kurt Hosman, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Junell Wentz, Chair; and Dillon Miller, Vice Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, NRCS; Mike Baden, WSCC; and the following District staff: Valerie Hampton, Ryan Williams, and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom Meeting / conference call.

Amy Bridges, Auditor, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Consent Agenda: Approve the August 20, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes, approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT – Chris Wright

September has been a busy month finishing Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts and getting new contracts ready to go. New contracts in Chelan County are for irrigation diversions, fish screens and fuels reductions projects.

Review of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) stats for Douglas County has also kept Chris busy the last few weeks. Two positions have been filled, a range position in Okanogan and a bio position in Waterville.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) – Mike Baden

The Conservation Commission's meeting was held on the 16th. Election reform was one of the topics of discussion. Mike briefly went over some of the Commission's recommendations for election reform.

Carol Smith, the Executive Director for the Commission, is retiring in October. The Commission will designate someone to serve in her position for the interim.

Districts biennial reports are due on the 24th of September. Each district is to provide a one-page report.

An in-depth cost share training is set for next Tuesday. This is a good training for new staff and those needing a refresher course. The annual election training for Election Supervisors is set for the 23rd. It will be recorded for later viewing for those that cannot attend at that time.

State employees are under a vaccine mandate as of October 15. Information will be posted on the Commission website as the mandates are updated or changed.

The Fire Recovery funding has all been spoken for. Districts should keep submitting projects and gathering inventory data to help the Commission provide a clear picture of what is needed. If folks ask for cultural resources for fire recovery, let Ryan and Mike Baden know. . If someone is interested in the next round of fire hazard assessment training, let Mike know as there is room available in some of the trainings. The trainings will be the last four days of October through the first week of November.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Applications:

Department of Ecology (DOE) Centennial Clean Water Fund: A new DOE grant application is being developed for application this round. Staff are working to develop an application similar to the one developed in 2019. Projects include riparian restoration, BDA installation, project maintenance and monitoring, project development, technical assistance, salmon safe certifications and a comprehensive outreach approach. We are looking to utilize some of the outreach funding to implement a Spanish language outreach program in partnership with CAFÉ and/or Team Naturaleza. The application is due on October 12.

Department of Ecology (DOE) Clean Air Fund: There is a new opportunity from the Department of Ecology focused on air quality. This is the same funding that purchased the chipper. We are considering an application to pay for the chipping program plus some free dump days. Applications are due on October 11.

Community Foundation Grant: The Community Foundation has small grants available that may be helpful with the programs already in place. They accept applications on a quarterly basis.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Jim seconded to approve applications for the DOE Centennial Clean Water Fund, the DOE Clean Air Fund and the Community Foundation grant. (Unanimous)

Grant Contracts:

Upper Wenatchee Monitoring Coordination / Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project: DNR asked that the District act as facilitator for the Upper Wenatchee Monitoring effort. The primary focus of this grant is to kick start monitoring in the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project area by facilitating a monitoring workgroup, organizing field events and aggregating monitoring data from multiple partners.

Wes Johns Landowner Agreement: This agreement covers a BDA and plantings as part of the new DOE contract (WQC-2022-CascCD-00033).

Okanogan CD Cooperative Agreement: An updated agreement has been prepared. The terms allow each district to provide services to the other, including cultural resources assistance provided by Cascadia.

Methow Conservancy Personal Services Agreement: Kim's assistance is requested for cultural resources work on two projects.

Chelan County Flood Control Zone District Interlocal Agreement (ILA): This contract is a renewal of our existing ILA. The contract language has been updated to include cultural resources.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB): The District was awarded another contract that covers outreach to landowners in partnership with Cascade Fisheries and Trout Unlimited through District newsletters, a webinar series, the annual calendar and one-on-one landowner contacts.

FEMA Scout-A-Vista: The contract language is now in place. When the contract comes through, Junell will be asked review and sign it so there is no delay in the work.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Jim seconded to approve the following contracts: Upper Wenatchee Monitoring Coordination Contract; Wes Johns Landowner Agreement; Okanogan Conservation District Cooperative Agreement; Methow Conservancy Personal Services; Chelan County Flood Control Zone District ILA; Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board; and the FEMA Scout-A-Vista, upon Junell's final review. (Unanimous)

Rates and Charges Update: The Chelan County Commissioners approved five more years for the Rates and Charges system, at the same rate as the previous five years. The District will move forward working with FCS Group to update the roll, as done in the past.

Personnel Update: Ken Muir took a job with Fish and Wildlife to do permitting work. Ryan is actively recruiting applicants with a closing date of next Wednesday. He will advertise again for the forester position within the month after reworking the ad verbiage to better describe the position and skill set needed.

Executive Director's Report:

Chipping Program: Due to funding constraints, the District will not be able to do much chipping this fall. DNR is going through a budgeting process and will not be able to have a contract ready in time for this fall's event. The Washington State Conservation Corps (WSCC) is booked up until November. Many areas will already have snow by that time and the branch piles would be taking up space that landowners use for snow removal. The plan now is to direct people to their local fire districts for new requests and have District staff take care of the 50 or so folks that have already signed up for the fall program. Kurt has experience with chippers and volunteered to help with the work.

Icicle Workgroup: Ryan has been talking with folks to learn more about the opportunities for the workgroup and the District to work together on projects. Suggestions have been made to facilitators to have more cost share available for landowners.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant: Ryan said Liz did a great job on the grant application. Funding was awarded that will pay for half of her time for about 2 ½ years to work on irrigation outreach projects.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Area & Annual Meetings: The WACD Area Meeting will be hosted virtually by Okanogan Conservation District on October 19. Ryan asked if any Board Members would like to attend and if there were any resolutions the District should submit. The business meeting portion of the WACD Annual Meeting is in-person

on November 30. The other sessions will be virtual and spread throughout November. Details will be sent to the Board when the information becomes available. Traditionally, new Board members can attend free.

Batterman Fire: The fire damage assessments are finished. Fencing replacement projects have been submitted for two landowners.

Kurt left the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Conservation Commission Projects: Liz is working on Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) projects. Two are forestry and a couple of others are irrigation projects.

Project Updates by Region:

Lake Chelan Basin: The 25 Mile Creek fire is closer to being controlled. The Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team is ready to start their work. Patrick has been meeting with landowners that have concerns created by the fire. There is a lot of interest in re-planting trees. One landowner lost their main line and has already fixed it. There may not be funding to help with work that has already been done. There will be funding available through the FEMA grant process for preemptive work. We plan to bring some project ideas to the hazard mitigation plan group.

Entiat Watershed: The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is hosting a field tour of Entiat projects next week. Steve Kolk and Boise staff, Kurt, Ryan and County representatives will be looking at all the projects.

Wenatchee Watershed: A similar tour is planned at the Little Chumstick site. Ryan is attending and sharing the District's perspective.

Ryan spent several days in the field with Ken to see where the project sites are located.

Southern Chelan County Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 40: No activity this month.

Set October 2021 Regular District Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular Meeting is Friday, October 15, 2021, at 1:30.

Board Member Comments & Open Discussion: Valerie briefly reported on the time that goes into preparing the Leave Obligations portion of the Treasurer's Report. She asked if a point-in-time status would be acceptable rather than showing all the amounts earned and used since the last meeting. The Board agreed that they are more interested in seeing that the hours are being used and would be happy to have a simplified quarterly or semi-annual report. Valerie will work on a different format for the document and have it for Board review at the next meeting.

Jim and Ryan discussed the Forest Health Collaborative meeting on October 12; Twisp's desire to recalculate their landscape restrictions to see if they are still on track; the delays in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that are partly due to the lack of a Forest Ranger in Leavenworth; and the District's potential to extend our NEPA grant.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved applications for the DOE Centennial Clean Water Fund, the DOE Clean Air Fund and the Community Foundation grant;

Approved the following contracts: Upper Wenatchee Monitoring Coordination Contract; Wes Johns Landowner Agreement; Okanogan Conservation District Cooperative Agreement; Methow Conservancy Personal Services; Chelan County Flood Control Zone District ILA; Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board; and the FEMA Scout-A-Vista, upon Junell's final review.

AUDITOR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____