

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Thursday, September 21, 2017
3:30 p.m.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Troutman and Chris Wright, NRCS; and the following District staff: Valerie Hampton, Mike Cushman, MarySutton Carruthers, Ken Muir, and Nada Wentz.

Josh Koempel, Chair, opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the Minutes of the August 17th Regular District Meeting; approve the Treasurer's Report, and authorize paying bills.

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

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike introduced newly hired Ken Muir, Project Coordinator II; and MarySutton Carruthers, Resource Specialist II. The Board welcomed them to the District.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Valerie reported for Peggy about the District credit card limit changes for staff. Mike's card had a limit of \$1,000. Peggy requested that the bank cancel Mike's card and re-distribute \$500 more to Patrick's card, and \$500 more to Valerie's card.

Valerie gave a brief report on the direct deposit information gathered so far from various banks. Wells Fargo would charge the District about \$1,800 a year in fees for the direct deposit program.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT

Chris reported that the 2017 programs are finished. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications for 2018 are starting. There will be two cutoff periods this next year, instead of three. NRCS would like to see an increase in the number of contracts for Chelan County in the next year.

Sarah Troutman described the Biological Assessments needed for some of their work and that it has been a challenge the last few years to get through the process and get the projects started. The Forest Service is contracting with NRCS on a spotted owl assessment. Sarah said that folks are excited to do these projects and NRCS has the potential for five or six contracts. They asked if the District would

be interested in having a Task Order for Biological Assessments to support planned Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Josh left the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Hal presided over the meeting.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve a Task Order with NRCS to complete Biological Assessments. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Projects:

Non-Shellfish: Mike reported that the cost share funds are still tied up with the Capital Budget. Landowners are in line for projects as soon as funding is available.

Cultural Resources Task Order: The District is waiting for contract paperwork to come through.

Josh returned at 3:50 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

Entiat Watershed Projects:

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) E&F Projects: Jason and Ken are working with BOR on the E&F projects. The District is extending the current agreement with BOR for six months to do the prep work for the projects. They are also working on the JARPA permit applications, hoping to have them finalized early next week and out by the first of October.

Other Entiat Watershed Updates: The Entiat Habitat Sub Committee (EHSC) met earlier today to discuss bringing the stakeholders together with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to explain monitoring efforts and the need for the data. Sarah Walker attended the meeting and will meet with the District staff next Tuesday to help them gain a better understanding of the Entiat Watershed history and progress.

Jim commented on monitoring efforts by the Forest Service on fire breaks, and the positive outcome of that work. It would be good to work with them on fuel breaks and helpful to the community as a whole. We should look at it from a firewise perspective, building good fuel breaks now to save damage later.

Wenatchee Watershed Projects:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Agreement: The District is waiting for the interagency agreement with DNR for fuels reduction and chipping events. The office has received a lot of phone requests for this work.

Urban Ag Program: Sandy is currently working with the WSU Master Gardeners and Tree Fruit Research folks on a needs assessment under the Urban Ag program.

Canyon Drainage Project: The District is working with Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee coordinating outreach material for work on the canyon drains. As a preventive measure to reduce problems from heavy rain, flyers were created containing information about drainage maintenance. The flyers are expected to be sent out in the spring.

Icicle Workgroup: The Icicle Workgroup focused on the hatchery this month and asked for comments and feedback. Mike and the Board had a brief discussion regarding the District's availability to participate with and assist the group. The Board asked Mike to get additional input from the County Commissioners.

Other Projects & Programs:

Vets on the Farm: The Board discussed the program. Jason has attended trainings to learn how it works. More information may be needed before he reaches out to the farmers about the program. The spokeswoman from Spokane has offered to come to Wenatchee to meet with the Board.

Watershed Locals Night – Additional Funding for Urban Ag Program: The Watershed, a restaurant in Leavenworth, donates 5% of their proceeds one night a month to a local group. The restaurant sponsors this event. Staff would like to participate and use potential proceeds to help support Urban Ag projects. Mike asked the Board for approval.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve District staff participation in The Watershed Locals Night and using the proceeds to support Urban Ag projects. (Unanimous)

Another event could also be used to support the Drinking Water Partnership Program. The City of Leavenworth is utilizing drinking water from the Icicle River. The District portion of the partnership is to assist with the creation of outreach materials that show where the water comes from, as well as the placement of educational signs at trail heads to remind the community and recreationists about the need to keep the water clean.

Master Agreement & Work Order with City of Wenatchee: The District has volunteered to work with the fire district and the City of Wenatchee to remove fire prone junipers near the north end of town. Mike shared a master agreement template as a starting place to develop the cost agreement with the city. The project planning will take place during the winter and could go out to bid in the spring. It is similar to a firewise fuels reduction project. The Board was asked to approve the agreement pending final review by Josh when it is ready to go.

M/S/C Jim moved and Roger seconded to approve the Master Agreement and Work Order with the City of Wenatchee, pending final review. (Unanimous)

NEW BUSINESS

Area Association Meeting & WACD Annual Meeting: Mike will be attending both meetings. Roger will be attending the Annual Meeting, November 27 - 29, in Kennewick. Jim was asked to attend the Area Meeting October 17 in Ritzville but he is not available.

The Board briefly discussed the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the Area Meeting in October.

Listening Tour with Senator Hawkins: The District was invited to a "Listening Tour" by Senator Hawkins' assistant. The event is October 5. Mike proposed to attend. He would highlight the District's accomplishments and advantages of the District's involvement with the voluntary stewardship.

2018 Supervisor Election: Valerie reported that there will potentially be two open positions, one elected and one appointed. Hal is stepping down. Roger’s term is up in the spring. She asked the Board to get the word out to the community. A notice will be in the quarterly newsletter and on the website.

Foster Creek Conservation District Interlocal Agreement for Financial Assistance: Foster Creek is going through a staffing transition. They have asked the District to help guide their staff person who is taking over the bookkeeping position, and it would be about 17 hours a month. Foster Creek would sign an agreement and be invoiced for Valerie’s time. The Board was asked to approve.

M/S/C Jim moved and Junell seconded to approve an interlocal agreement between Cascadia and Foster Creek for bookkeeping assistance. (Unanimous)

Chelan County Shoreline Master Plan Update: Jim has been following the County’s update process for the Shoreline Master Plan. Some of the language has been changed to deal with firewise work around homes. He suggested that this is a good opportunity for the District to step up and help with home assessments and asked that a staff person track the changes and attend the hearing. If assessment work has been done, the District can suggest areas needing fuels reduction work and streamside protection. Mike said he would do so.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be a Special District Meeting in the Upstairs Conference Room on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

- Approved the Consent Agenda;
- Approved a Task Order with NRCS to complete Biological Assessments;
- Approved District staff participation in The Watershed Locals Night and using the proceeds to support Urban Ag projects;
- Approved the Master Agreement and Work Order with the City of Wenatchee, pending final review;
- Approved an interlocal agreement between Cascadia and Foster Creek for bookkeeping assistance.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____