

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, January 21, 2022
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; Amy Bridges, Auditor; Kurt Hosman, Member; and Jim Bartelme, Member.

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

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda: Approve the December 17, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes, approve the November Treasurer's Report and corrections to the October Treasurer's Report, and authorize payment of bills.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Chris Wright

New Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications will be ranked on February 24. The Urban Ag program is new and targets small farms but had a very short turnaround time for applications this year. The short turnaround may have caught folks off guard as there wasn't much interest in the program. NRCS hopes to see more interest next year. Urban Ag is part of the EQIP program.

NRCS team for this area is currently shorthanded. The Resource Conservationist in Waterville retired at the end of 2021. Ernie is coming to help one day a week.

Chris is hoping to hear some news about the Joint Chiefs Partnership application by the end of the month.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC): Mike Baden

The Commission has appointed Chris Pettit as the new Executive Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission. He starts in mid-March. Kirk Robinson fills the position until then and will assist Chris during the transition.

The Legislature is in session. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) does a good job of keeping districts informed about the bills that are on the watch list. District elections is a big item as there is talk of adding districts to the General Election ballot and changing the years a supervisor holds office. Other bills on the watch list have to do with buffers along streams and the Department of Ecology (DOE) Stock Water Policy – diversions for livestock requiring water rights.

Mike reminded the District to get the Notice of Election Resolution published in the newspapers within seven days of adoption, and to run it twice with at least six days between publication dates.

STAFF REPORT: Patrick Haggerty

Patrick is working with Joe Hill, the District's new Forest and Community Resilience Specialist, to get him up and running with the forest management and fuels reduction programs, as well as introducing him to the folks involved in these programs.

Patrick discussed other projects such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant, contracts with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for chipping and education/outreach, and a group of volunteers to do fuels reduction work. He also gave updates about the NCW Forest Health Collaborative meetings and touched on the pace and scale of projects in the forests, the funders' demand for cross boundary aid and the inclusion and cooperation with private landowners. Patrick asked the Board to share their perspective of the NCW Forest Health Collaborative with him and Ryan.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Applications:

Department Of Ecology (DOE) Stream Flow: The District, Trout Unlimited and Cascade Fisheries are partnering on an application for funding to increase the base flow in rivers. Some of the work would be on Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA's).

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve the DOE Stream Flow application with Trout Unlimited and Cascade Fisheries. (Unanimous)

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban Agriculture Grant

Resolution: Funds from this grant would continue the work with community and school groups on community gardening projects that Sandy started. This grant application requires approval of the Board in the form of a Resolution.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Kurt seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-1, Authorization to Apply for Urban Agriculture Grant. (Unanimous)

Grant Contracts:

Woods LLC Lease Agreement: The current lease with Woods LLC for the District office space ends in February. The new agreement is a two-year lease and includes a 3% increase per year. Parking spots remain at the current rate.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve the new two-year lease with Woods LLC. (Unanimous)

Pacific Conservation District: The District was asked to assist with cultural resources work. Ryan is working on the interlocal agreement including the standard language about sharing of staff.

Center for Technical Development (CTD): Ryan is now co-chair of the statewide training and certification program with Jan Thomas of Underwood CD. Ryan wants to set up an agreement for the time commitment to CTD. The workload would be about 3 to 4 hours of work per month. Board approval was requested.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Kurt seconded to approve the Pacific Conservation District interlocal agreement and the work agreement with the Center for Technical Development. (Unanimous)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Supplemental Agreement – Enhancement: The agreement has been sent to the national office and is expected to come back to the partnership for signature in the next couple of weeks. The Board was asked to approve Ryan’s signature on the contract.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery (UCSRB): The Board was also asked for approval for Ryan to sign the agreement with UCSRB when it is received. This agreement funds Mark Ingman’s time to facilitate the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU) meetings and support the Entiat Watershed website.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Kurt seconded to approve Ryan signing the RCPP Supplemental agreement and the UCSRB agreement. (Unanimous)

Policies: Ryan emailed the Policy Manual to the Board for their review of the changes. A brief discussion followed.

Other Business:

2022 Election Resolution: Valerie recommended holding the supervisor election on March 23, at Pybus Market, from noon to 6 p.m. The election filing and absentee ballot request deadline is February 18 at 5 p.m. The absentee ballots need to be received at the office by 11 a.m. or delivered to the polling site by 6 p.m. on March 23. The Board was asked to approve Resolution 2022-2, District Supervisor Election as recommended.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Jim seconded to adopt Resolution 2022-2, District Supervisor Election. (Unanimous)

Mike Baden left the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Executive Director’s Report:

Line of Credit Renewal: Board approval is needed to renew the Line of Credit account with Numerica Credit Union.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve renewal of the Line of Credit account with Numerica Credit Union. (Unanimous)

Strategic Planning Meeting: Ryan and the Board discussed meeting schedules and dates for the Strategic Planning Meeting. The next Regular meeting dates are March 18 and April 15. If a meeting is scheduled outside the regular date or time, it will become a Special Meeting. The March and April meetings will be finalized at the February 18 Regular meeting.

Amy left the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Cultural Resource Requests: The District has received several requests from other districts and other agencies to conduct cultural resources work. One request includes onsite monitoring. Interlocal agreements will be brought to the Board for approval as they become needed.

The Drinking Water Partnership Program Salmon Safe and Beaver Dam Analog applications for Eagle Creek have been submitted. Ryan got word that the District is on the funding list for another three-year grant from the Department of Ecology (DOE) Centennial Clean Water program.

Ryan is tracking the Legislative issues regarding mandatory buffers and the election topic of putting districts on the general ballot. Both topics are controversial legislative discussions.

Project Updates by Region

Lake Chelan Basin: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received nine million dollars to plant trees. Patrick plans to connect people in the 25 Mile Creek fire area to the program.

Entiat Watershed: The Entiat Habitat Subcommittee (EHSC) met on the 17th.

Wenatchee Watershed: There are four implementation projects planned for this summer. Two are in the 100-year flood plain and need modeling work for the permits. An agreement may be set up with the east side District Engineer to conduct the work.

Southern Chelan County (WRIA 40): Staff attended the Squilchuck snowshoe and winter version of the Kids in the Forest (KITF) programs yesterday.

Payroll Audit: Valerie recommended asking Carol Cowling to conduct the District payroll audit for 2021. The Board agreed to the recommendation.

Icicle Workgroup Meeting: A brief update about the operational procedures and the County's alluvial project were the topics of the last meeting. Construction projects are on hold because of the snow for the time being.

Set February Regular District Meeting Date and Agenda:

The next Regular Meeting is Friday, February 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved the DOE Stream Flow application with Trout Unlimited and Cascade Fisheries;
Adopted Resolution 2022-1, Authorization to Apply for Urban Agriculture Grant;
Approved the new two-year lease with Woods LLC;
Approved the Pacific Conservation District interlocal agreement and the work agreement with the Center for Technical Development;
Approved Ryan signing the RCPP Supplemental agreement and the UCSRB Agreement;
Adopted Resolution 2022-2, District Supervisor Election;
Approved renewal of the Line of Credit account with Numerica Credit Union.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____