

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
1350 McKittrick St
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, November 17, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; Amy Bridges, Auditor; Kurt Hosman, Member; and M. Pete Teigen, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Curtin, NRCS; Mark Neal, guest, and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, Mark Ingman, Elizabeth Jackson and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Consent Agenda: Approve the October 20, 2023, Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the October Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of current bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Frank Curtin

Frank is taking in a lot of applications, most of which are for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application deadline is today.

NRCS is adopting new practice standards for forest stand improvement, including new payment rates for forestry projects to compensate for steep sloped areas. The rates have not come out yet. Frank briefly gave descriptions of what forest practices are included.

STAFF REPORT: Mark Ingman

Mark provided a slide presentation on some of the project work in the Entiat. He touched on the criticisms about endangered fish not being de-listed and the options available to get the fish to come back. Comparisons were made between the Entiat and the Asotin watershed, including what has worked for Asotin and why it may or may not work in the Entiat.

The majority of the work done in the Entiat in 2022 and 2023 has been focused on riparian plantings to cool the water temperatures, and implementation of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) to mimic the work beavers do when building their dams and help divert the water to side channels. BDAs have been put in Potato Creek and Stormy Creek.

Mark and the Board discussed how long BDAs last, where they can be implemented, and materials used in building them, as well as the desired outcomes of putting them in. Many agencies assisted in getting the structures put in, such as Trout Unlimited, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and Cascade

Fisheries. Further discussions involve the sharing of data collected between the agencies, and ways to record the changes resulting from the structures.

Junell commented that she appreciates the staff presentations.

STAFF REPORT: Elizabeth Jackson

Dairy Nutrient Plan: Elizabeth gave a brief report on the two micro dairies along with a slide presentation highlighting some of the parts of the plan for Laurel's Crown LLC Dairy. The main focus is on waste and nutrient management, from the barn cleaning to the compost pile, to the use of compost materials to enrich the soil in the spring. The board must approve the Dairy Nutrient Management plan for Laurel's Crown LLC.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve the Laurel's Crown LLC Dairy Nutrient Plan.
(Unanimous)

GRANT APPLICATION, CONTRACT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Grant Applications:

US Forest Service / Dept. of Health – install BDAs on several sites on Peshastin Creek and Mill Creek.

Grant Contracts:

Dept. of Ecology (DOE) – Wenatchee Basin Stream Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Project involving planting, livestock bridge, fencing, waste storage, project maintenance, technical assistance, and adult and youth education activities.

NACD – Underserved Community Outreach to provide technical assistance to underserved producers for NRCS practices and assist NRCS to sign up more producers for EQIP.

ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts:

Trout Unlimited (TU) – Beaver Powered Restoration Program Support for the beaver relocation program, BDA planning, and BDA implementation.

Cascade Fisheries – Derby Canyon BDA Implementation assistance.

Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) – Prescribed Burn Association outreach contract to conduct learn and burn and pile burning events, community presentations, learning exchanges, and burn plan development workshops.

WA Resource Conservation and Development Council (WA RC&D) – WA Fire Adapted Communities Training to provide WAFAC trainings statewide including Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP), tools for engaging landowners, indigenous partnerships, intro to fire adapted communities, and a WAFAC training online resource library.

NRCS – Underserved Communities Cooperative Agreement to conduct outreach to underserved producers in Chelan County. The project includes producer workshops, career connected learning, and technical assistance.

Wenatchee Valley Fire – Staff support for green fuel break project; provide funding for Wenatchee Valley Fire staff to assist with project implementation around the city of Wenatchee.

Snohomish Conservation District – Engineering Services for Cutler Culvert to complete permit ready designs for the culvert on Eagle Creek.

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share:

Michael & Lydia McAllister – WSCC Forest Health & Post Fire Recovery for aerial or ground treatment of invasive species, seeding and maintenance activities.

Audrey Bacon – DOE Streamflow to install 5-10 BDAs, PALs and Wood Enhancement, riparian buffer.

Karen Black – DOE Streamflow to install 35 BDAs, PALs and Wood Enhancement, riparian buffer.

Leslie Hawkins – DOE Streamflow to install 20 BDAs, PALs and Wood Enhancement.

Paul Hedeem – DOE Streamflow to install 15-25 BDAs, PALs, and wood additions, riparian buffer.

Michelle Hatch – DOE Streamflow to install 20 BDAs, PALs, and Wood enhancement, riparian buffer.

Padilla and Rosales – WSCC Forest Health & Post Fire Recovery for aerial or ground treatment of invasive species, seeding, and maintenance activities.

Lovitt Resources Inc – WSCC Forest Health & Post Fire Recovery for aerial or ground treatment of invasive species, seeding, and maintenance activities.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to approve the grant applications, contracts and cost share agreements as presented. (Unanimous)

OTHER BUSINESS

Health Insurance: Insurance quotes for our current provider are about 15% higher than last year. Ryan and Valerie have reviewed some different options for health care insurance. One is the Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF). This is available to state, county and city employees but requires a letter of reference from a member agency to start the process and there isn't time to complete the steps for this year. They will explore the options for next year.

Several other plans will be reviewed and compared with the current Health Alliance coverage. Medicare questions still need to be researched as well. The Board was asked to delegate a couple members to go over the plans with Ryan and Valerie so that a decision can be made before the December board meeting, in time for the open enrollment and application deadlines. Junell and Kurt volunteered to review the plans.

Junell had to leave the meeting at 3:38 p.m. Dillon presided over the meeting from that point on.

M/S/C Pete moved and Kurt seconded to approve delegating Junell and Kurt to review and decide on the health insurance plans. (Unanimous)

Executive Director's Report:

WACD Conference: The conference will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center November 27 – 29. The business meeting portion is on Wednesday, the 29th. The main topic of interest to the District is the pursuit of a cluster Archaeologist. This will be one of the resolutions up for a vote. Pete is on board for Tuesday or Wednesday. If other Board Members wish to attend, please let Ryan know as soon as possible.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP): The District is kicking off the work of updating the CWPP for Chelan County. Ryan has been working with Chelan County Natural Resources Department (NRD) to identify the scope of work and what portion is needed from a consultant. The cost estimates are more than anticipated, so a request was made to the Conservation Commission for additional funding. This will be an intensive and in-depth interaction between the Fire districts, DNR, the cities, and others. Patrick will be monitoring the proceedings remotely until he returns to the District full time. Other staff will attend the Fire Chiefs meeting next week to get their feedback.

Election Day & Open House: A Doodle Poll was emailed to the Board and staff regarding the best date to hold the election and open house. Dates being considered are March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13. Times considered for the election/open house are 4:30 – 6:30 or 5 to 7. Amy is up for reappointment and Dillon is up for election. Ryan asked the Board to let him know what their preferences are. A resolution for dates and times will be brought to the December meeting.

Purchase of Chipper Towing Vehicle: Board approval is needed for Ryan to pursue the process of purchasing a Forest Health vehicle that is rated to tow the chipper, and to seek funds to modify it for program needs. A search for a replacement vehicle for the Blazer is currently in progress.

M/S/C Amy moved and Pete seconded to authorize the Executive Director to pursue purchase of a Forest Health truck. (Unanimous)

Branded Clothing: Ryan asked the Board to let him know if they would like to have a jacket with the District logo to use at events. He will be ordering them soon for staff.

December Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting is December 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the District office.

Board Member Comments & Open Discussion: Discussion on holiday celebrations - a local happy hour location will be suggested for after the December 15 meeting for those that might want to go. Staff are thinking about a get-together in January when Alex returns.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;
Approved the Laurel's Crown LLC Dairy Nutrient Plan;
Approved the following Grant applications, and Contracts:

Grant Applications:

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Lovitt Resources Inc – WSCC Forest Health & Post Fire Recovery for aerial or ground treatment of invasive species, seeding, and maintenance activities;

Approved delegating Junell and Kurt to review and decide on the health insurance plans;
Authorized the Executive Director to pursue purchase of a Forest Health truck.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____