

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
1350 McKittrick St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday March 15, 2024
1:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Chair (Zoom); Dillon Miller, Vice-Chair (In-Person); Kurt Hosman, Member (Zoom); and Pete Teigen, Member (Zoom).

ABSENT: Amy Bridges, Auditor.

OTHERS PRESENT: The following District Staff were present in-person: Ryan Williams, Val Hampton, Joe Hill, and Nada Wentz; Isobel Woolner (Zoom).

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Consent Agenda: Approve the February 23, 2024 Special District Meeting Minutes, approve February Treasurer's Report and authorize paying bills.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Kurt Hosman Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: No Correspondence

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Frank Curtin
Not available for the meeting.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT: Mike Baden
Not available for the meeting.

Staff Report – Joe Hill and Isobel Woolner

Joe presented a PowerPoint presentation of fuels reduction work done in the last couple of years. The chipping program, free dump days, home risk assessments, and a new program using a biochar kiln are a few of the things Joe and Isobel have been working on. A workshop is set for April 20 to show landowners how the biochar kiln works.

The Forest Health team is kicking off the next round of work with Team Rubicon, an international volunteer group of veterans helping folks in need to clean up yard waste and reduce wildfire fuels around their homes; Red Cross, who approached residents door to door with questions about any help needed to reduce wildfire risk and keep their homes insured; and the Fuel Break and Forest Resilience partnership with NRCS, helping landowners through the application process and into the implementation of wildfire resilience practices on their properties.

This spring the Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association has been conducting a lot more prescribed burns. There is also an upcoming learn and burn on Camp CAMREC.

Pete suggested reaching out to the Leavenworth city council and county commissioners with tours of the prescribed burns.

Isobel reported on a home hardening incentive program. The program would give residents tips on affordable actions to protect their homes from wildfire risks. The program works like a cost share agreement with up to a \$500 cap for reimbursement, is open county-wide, and open to homeowners and renters. This program is rolling out this spring with hopes to have the sign-up ready by mid-April. Ryan would like to have the program ready for Board approval at the April meeting, pending discussions with the auditor.

GRANT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the March 15, 2024 board meeting					
Grant Applications					
Granting Agency	Title	Amount		Activities	Action Needed
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Columbia Basin Climate Smart Technical Assistance	\$75,000-\$100,000		Conduct TA with producers focused on climate smart practices	Approve application
Grant Contracts					
Granting Agency	Contract Title	Duration	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	2024 Entiat WAT Support	4/1/2024-9/30/2024	\$ 5,150	Coordinate Entiat Planning Unit and Watershed Action team meetings. Organize watershed partners, assist UCSRB with salmon recovery process	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
Yakama Nation	Outreach in the Entiat/Wenatchee	01/15/2024-05/31/2025	\$ 20,000.00	Provide outreach support to Yakama Nation Fisheries Staff for project development and general fisheries awareness	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement
Summit Forests, Inc	Contact for thinning on Scout-a-Vista project	03/15/2024-04/30/2025	\$ 48,720.00	30 acres of shaded fuel break treatment at Scout-a-Vista property.	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement
Trout Unlimited - Washington Water Project	Contract to support Jones Shotwell implementation	4/1/2024-06/30/2025	\$ 250,000	Project management costs for the Jones Shotwell Irrigation Company project implementation	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement
The Nature Conservancy	Cultural Resources Survey on Moses Coulee	03/07/2024-09/30/2024	\$ 13,699.01	Complete cultural resources survey in support of perimeter fencing on 200 acres and 72 soil sample plots for USGS	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement
Chelan Fire District 3	Cooperative Services Agreement	04/01/2024-03/31/2029	None	ILA detailing conditions for the cooperative services agreement between CCD and CCFD3	Approve Interlocal agreement pending CCFD3 approval
Chelan Fire District 3	Work order 2024-1 - Fuels Crew Support	04/01/2024-11/30/2024	\$ 32,500.00	Work order to help fund their fuels crew for this spring/summer/fall.	Approve Executive Director to sign work order
Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue	Cooperative Services Agreement	04/01/2024-03/31/2029	None	ILA detailing conditions for the cooperative services agreement between CCD and Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue	Approve Interlocal Agreement pending Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue approval
Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue	Work order 2024-1 - Fuels Crew Support	04/01/2024-11/30/2024	\$ 32,500.00	Work order to help fund their fuels crew for this spring/summer/fall.	Approve Executive Director to sign work order
Waste Loop	Cooperative Services Agreement	3/1/2024-2/28/2029	None	Cooperative services agreement between Cascadia CD and Waste Loop. Initial project will be focused on alternatives to burning	Approve cooperative services agreement
Ecological Services, LLC	Summer Fuels Crew	4/1/2024-11/30/2024	\$ 69,810.00	30 days of fuels treatment on 15 properties	Approve Executive Director to sign agreement

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Mark and Dorothy Johnston	DOE Streamflow	100%	\$ 8,000.00	3 Post-Assisted Log Structures, 0.2 acres planting	Approve Landowner Agreement
Amy Carlson	WSSC Forest Health	47%	\$ 685.00	1 acre forest thinning	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Chelan Douglas Land Trust	WSSC Forest Health	23%	\$ 42,514.90	80 acres of forest thinning on Mountain Home property	Approve Cost Share Agreement
David Daily	WSSC Forest Health	44%	\$ 1,057.50	1.5 acres forest thinning	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Patrick Murphy	WSSC Forest Health	68%	\$ 9,112.50	4.5 acres of forest thinning	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Pete Kostka	WSSC Forest Health	66%	\$ 38,380.02	19 acres of thinning, brushing, slash disposal	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Bockoven	RCO Entiat BDAs	100%	\$ 80,000.00	75 BDAs/PALS/Wood structures	Approve Landowner Agreement
Robert Johnson	WSSC Forest Health	80%	\$ 71,178.71	27 acres of thinning, brushing, slash disposal	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities Completed	Action Needed
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts color codes		No color is neutral cashflow			
		Rust is CCD paying somebody else			
		Green is CCD receiving money			

Ryan plans to submit an advance request to the Commission to cover the cost share payments.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to approve the grants and contracts list. Kurt Hosman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Accepting Credit Card Payments: Numerica Credit Union has a program to receive credit card payments through a company called Clover. The terminal can be used on a computer, accept credit or debit cards and processes in 24 hours. There is a 3.5% processing fee and a \$.10 per transaction fee. There is no activation or annual fee. The Board was asked to give their input. The District has been asked about options for paying by card for sponsorships, donations, and occasionally invoice payments or meeting fees. Discussion included who pays the fees, the District or the donor/buyer, and the possibility of having a donate button on the District website. The Board felt this would be a good option to pursue pending more information along with a policy to govern its use.

Executive Director’s report:

Water Trailer: Mason Conservation District purchased a water trailer with Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) funding. Mason CD has not used it as planned and, with WSDA permission, is willing to transfer ownership to Cascadia at no cost. If the Board approves, Ryan proposed that while he is attending the upcoming Commission meeting at Mason, they transfer the title and he would haul the trailer back to Wenatchee.

M/S/C Dillon moved to approve Ryan accepting the transfer of ownership from Mason CD to Cascadia CD for the water trailer. Kurt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Prescribed Fire Trailer: Ryan and the Board discussed purchase of a prescribed fire trailer, its size and safety equipment needed, storage, use and potential rentals to landowners. Funding is available from the Forest Health grant for the equipment. It can be parked at project sites during field work, and stored at Fire District 6 when not in use.

The Board discussed concerns about the liability of loaning it out to landowners. It was suggested that charging a rental fee would be a way to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs. Ryan is talking with other districts about their rental policies, vetting process and agreement documents needed. A policy regarding the landowner rental will be brought to the Board for review.

M/S/C Dillon moved to approve purchase of a prescribed fire trailer to store equipment used during prescribed fire demonstrations and events. Pete seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

WADE Training: The annual Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) training at Sleeping Lady is June 10, 11, and 12. There are options for free virtual training sessions. Scholarships for one or two people are available. Registrations are due by March 29. If folks are interested, please let Ryan know.

Staff Hiring Update: Elizabeth Jackson was hired as the new District Program Director. Marcy was hired as a Resource Specialist I. Candidates for the Education Specialist position will be interviewed in April. Alex, Mark, and Lucas are continuing interviews to staff a Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) crew for this field season.

Pete left the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Ryan asked the Board for permission to hire a second Resource Specialist I to backfill some of Elizabeth's former duties.

M/S/C Dillon moved to approve hire a second Resource Specialist I. Kurt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Blazer Replacement: Ryan asked for approval to purchase a ¾ ton truck with a long bed locally to replace the Blazer. This would provide staff with a reliable field truck.

M/S/C Dillon moved to approve the purchase of a ¾ ton truck with an 8 ft bed for field use. Kurt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chipper Truck: There was a brief discussion about the cost of the chipper truck, the training needed and documentation of the training received by staff. Ryan will start the purchase process now but doesn't anticipate getting the truck before the end of the field season.

Conservation Easement Update: Ryan reported that Paul D'Agnolo received five conservation easement applications and plans to recommend that all five be approved, including the one in Manson.

District Health Insurance Update: The District medical insurance and wellness program offered this year has been frustrating, unclear as to what is available and has potential policy changes. Val and Ryan suggested the District look into the Association of Washington Cities and possibly the Washington Counties Insurance Fund programs. It is possible to change policies in the middle of the year, but it could reset the renewal date to the month started instead of January each year. Val is gathering rate and membership requirement info, and Ryan is checking with the City to see if they would be willing to sponsor us. Information will be brought to the Board at the April meeting.

April Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting is a Regular Meeting on April 19, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the District office.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Grant Applications:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Columbia Basin Climate Smart Technical Assistance application;

Grant Contracts:

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board – 2024 Entiat WAT Support contract;

ILAs / MOUs / MOAs / Contracts:

Yakama Nation – Outreach in the Entiat/Wenatchee agreement;

Summit forests, Inc – Contact for thinning on Scout-a-Vista project agreement;

Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project – Contract to support Jones Shotwell implementation;

Nature Conservancy – Cultural resources survey on Moses Coulee agreement;

Chelan Fire District 3 – Cooperative services agreement;

Chelan Fire District 3 – Work order 2024-1 Fuels Crew Support;

Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue – Cooperative services agreement;

Lake Wenatchee Fire and Rescue – Work order 2024-1 Fuels Crew Support agreement;

Waste Loop – cooperative service agreement;

Ecological services, LLC – Summer Fuels Crew;

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share:

Mark and Dorothy Johnston – DOE Streamflow agreement;

Amy Carlson – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

Chelan Douglas Land Trust – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

David Daily – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

Patrick Murphy – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

Pete Kostka – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

Bockoven – RCO Entiat BDAs agreement;

Rober Johnson – WSCC Forest Health agreement;

Approved Ryan accepting the transfer of ownership from Mason CD to Cascadia CD for the water trailer;

Approved purchase of a prescribed fire trailer to store equipment used during prescribed fire demonstrations and events;

Approved hire a second Resource Specialist I;

Approved the purchase of a ¾ ton truck with an 8 ft bed for field use.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____