

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
1350 McKittrick St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday April 19, 2024
1:30 p.m.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC (Zoom); and the following District Staff were present in-person: Ryan Williams, Val Hampton and Nada Wentz.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Consent Agenda: Approve the March 15, 2024 Regular District Meeting Minutes, approve March Treasurer's Report and authorize paying bills.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Amy Bridges 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

A supplemental budget of 3.5 million dollars was received for technical assistance programs to be used beginning July 1. The Commission will divide the funding between the districts after their May meeting. The Commission expects to ask for an additional 10 million in funding at the next legislative session.

The Commission is in the process of hiring for a forest health position and a disaster assistance position, and rehiring for the VSP position recently vacated by Bill Eller who switched to the disaster assistance program.

The Climate Commitment Account Funding will be on the ballot this fall for voters to approve or repeal. Funding that has already been awarded will remain secure and in place. Funding that has not been awarded is pending the outcome of the vote.

STAFF REPORT: None

GRANT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the April 19, 2024 board meeting

Grant Applications					
Granting Agency	Title	Amount		Activities	Action Needed
Department of Ecology	Americorps Individual Placement	No income, potential staff position		Application to secure an on-site single Americorps position through the Washington Conservaton Corps Program	Approve Application
NACD	Climate Smart Commodities Planning Grant	\$15,000		Planning grant to develop a climate smart commodities grant for Pear producers in Chelan County	Approve Application
Grant Contracts					
Granting Agency	Contract Title	Duration	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Washington Emergency Management Division	North Chelan Defensible Space - Phase 1	11/29/2022 - 09/01/2026	\$ 22,835.48	Outreach to landowners on the north side of Lake Chelan including Union Valley area to identify home hardening projects. Phase 2 is funding to implement those projects.	Approve Executive Director sign contract
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
Jefferson County Conservation District	Services exchange - cultural resources	Begins 3/1/2024 until canceled	None	Work Orders for shared services	Approve Services Agreement
Lichen Land and Water	Monitoring plan development	4/19/2024 - 12/01/2026	\$ 44,360.00	Develop Quality Assurance Project Plan and Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for BDA monitoring	Approve Executive Director to Sign Services Contract
The Whitener Group	Accounting Review and Assistance Services	02/01/2024-02/01/2025	\$20,000	Providing additional support on annual financial report, ongoing issue solving and oversight of accounting functions	Approve Executive Director to Sign Services Contract

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Jones Shotwell Irrigation Company	WSSC Irrigation Efficiencies Program	42%	\$ 1,200,000.00	Replace water intake pump station, convert 2.5 miles of open ditch to pressurized pipe	Approve landowner agreement
Phil and Kristina Bowman	WSSC SRF	100%	\$ 20,000.00	4 acres of riparian planting, 10 BDA/PAL structures	Approve Landowner DIP Project
Leslie Hawkins	DOE Streamflow	100%			
Todd and Jen Headrick	WSSC SRF	100%	\$ 18,000.00	4 acres of riparian planting, 3 BDA/PAL structures	Approve Landowner DIP Project
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 color is CCD paying somebody else			
		Green color is CCD receiving money			

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD): Ryan and the Board had a brief discussion on the NACD application, that if funded, would help pear orchardists with climate efficiencies such as water usage, pest resilience and more production on a smaller footprint. The application is due on May 15.

AmeriCorps: This request for an individual placement to help Kirk with the education programs will most likely not be granted this year, but it does put the District in a good position to apply again next year with a higher chance of success.

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

Other Business:

Schedule 22: Valerie asked that a couple of Board Members volunteer to go over the Schedule 22 for the Annual Financial Report. The documents could be emailed for review, but the records spot checks should be done in person if possible. Junell and Pete volunteered to review the report.

Medical Insurance Options: Valerie discussed the pros and cons of the City and the County associations' medical and benefits plans with the Board. The Counties' plan looks promising, offers additional amenities, and coverage could start July 1 or sooner if the Board approves. She and Ryan would like to further review the options and rates for a proposed change. Valerie asked the Board to designate a Member to review their recommendations and approve whether to move forward with them. Amy volunteered to help.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to have Ryan and Valerie proceed with the medical insurance and benefits comparisons, and designate Amy Bridges to review and approve the proposed change. Pete Tiegen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's report:

Prescribed Fire Trailer: The quote of \$8,500 voted on at the last meeting did not include sales tax. The new quote with taxes is \$9,600. Ryan asked the Board to approve the new quote for the purchase of a prescribed fire trailer.

M/S/C Kurt Hosman moved to approve the increase in cost for the trailer to \$9,600. Dillon Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Home Hardening Incentive Program: Ryan briefly discussed the program with the Board. He asked for one or two Board Members to review the program, pending the state auditor's recommendations, instead of waiting until a meeting to get approval. Advertising began at Earth Day. Awards will be given in June. Ryan offered to send out the program information to all the Board Members so that one of them can review and approve it. It is a short turnaround.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to approve the Home Hardening Incentive Program pending recommendations from the State Auditor's Office and review of a Board Member. Pete Teigen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hiring: The new Resource Specialist starts on Monday. Two summer Resource Technicians started last week, and the bilingual Education & Outreach Specialist begins in May.

Vehicles: Ryan asked the Board for input as he discussed the vehicle needs for staff to do field work and attend meetings. Some of the Forest Health money has been held up with payments that are up to three months behind. In addition to the Sierra truck and the new ¾ ton truck, Ryan is thinking about a smaller SUV for meeting attendance such as a RAV, with a cost of about \$20,000. The smaller rig will have better gas mileage. There is a potential of up to \$20,000 per District in end of biennium funds from the Commission, and this would be an eligible cost for the request. Rates and Charges money would be available to make up the difference between what the Commission awards and the final cost. Again, this is a short turnaround to receive the money in May and purchase the rig by the end of June.

M/S/C Kurt Hosman moved to proceed with the purchase of an SUV. Amy Bridges seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hinterland Farms Easement Update: The Commission approved the Hinterland Farms Easement project. The next step is the application, due May 1st.

WACD Legislative Day Planning Meeting: A two-day session is planned for May 29 and 30 in Ellensburg. Supervisors are invited to attend. Ryan asked that the Board Members let him know if they are interested and available. It is an opportunity to think ahead with the work that needs to be promoted to the legislators. Pete is interested in the meetings and asked that he be notified if there are any forest health prescribed fire items to be discussed.

May Meeting Date, Location and Time: The Regular Meeting is May 17, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the District office. Ryan will be attending the next meeting remotely, Valerie will be in Alaska for a wedding, and Nada will be on vacation. Ryan talked with Liz about setting up the Zoom meeting for Ryan and Valerie to attend remotely. The Board was asked if this is agreeable with them or if they wish to set a different date. They want to keep the scheduled meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Grant Applications:

DOE AmeriCorps Placement;
NACD Climate Smart Commodities Planning Grant;

Grant Contracts:

Washington Emergency Management Division North Chelan Defensible Space Phase I, outreach to landowners on the north side of Lake Chelan including Union Valley;

ILAs / MOUs / MOAs / Contracts:

Jefferson County Conservation District cultural resources services exchange;
Lichen Land and Water monitoring plan development;
The Whitener Group accounting review and assistant services;

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share:

Jones Shotwell Irrigation Company WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies Program;
Phil and Kristina Bowman WSCC riparian planting, BDA/PAL structure implementation;
Leslie Hawkins DOE Streamflow;
Todd and Jen Headrick WSCC riparian planting, BDA/PAL structure implementation;

Approved Ryan and Valerie proceed with medical insurance and benefits comparisons, designate Amy Bridges to review and approve the proposed change;

Approved increase in cost for the trailer to \$9,600;

Approved the Home Hardening Incentive Program pending recommendations from State Auditor's Office and review of a Board Member;

Approved proceeding with the purchase of an SUV.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____