

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
1350 McKittrick St., Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday February 21, 2025
1:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Chair (In-Person); Amy Bridges, Auditor (Via Zoom); and Dillon Miller, Vice-Chair (In-Person).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kurt Hosman, Member; and Pete Teigen, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC (Via Zoom); Elly McManus, CCD/NRCS (In-Person); and the following District Staff: Ryan Williams (In-Person); Cindy Goodell (In-Person); Patrick Haggerty (In-Person); Joe Hill (In-Person); Isobel Woolner (In-Person); and Nada Wentz (In-Person).

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Consent Agenda: Approve January 17, 2024, Regular District Meeting Minutes, approve January 27, 2025 Special District Meeting Minutes, approve January 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: None requiring official response

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Elly McManus

Elly McManus filled in for Frank, who accepted a position with a different organization. She is the conservation planner partner for Cascadia and NRCS. She has been training with folks from Waterville and Okanogan. She gave a brief update about the Federal freeze and contract payments. Ryan added that the contract with NRCS for Elly's position is in place.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT: Mike Baden

Mike said the outcome of the current budget proposals being discussed in the Legislative meetings is unknown. Hopefully there will be a clearer picture of where the budget stands in a couple of weeks.

The Commission and District Directors met in Spokane on Wednesday to discuss proposed changes to the Commission policy manual. Mike and Ryan attended. The meeting was a facilitated discussion. Mike thanked Ryan for a great job of fielding comments during the meeting.

FORESTRY TEAM PRESENTATION: Patrick Haggerty, Joe Hill, Isobel Woolner

The Forestry Team presented a report on the work they have been doing for the last few years. Project descriptions, funding availability and use, partnering agencies, and acres treated were among the information shared. They have done a significant amount of work with outreach events, fire assessments, fuels reduction assistance, thinning and chipping. The Board expressed their thanks to the Forestry Team.

GRANT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACT REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the February 21, 2025 board meeting					
Grant Applications					
Granting Agency	Title	Amount		Activities	Action Needed
NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation grant	Tools for Growth: Supporting New Farmers through Accessible Resources	\$75,000		Funding for tool library tools, urban ag activities, outreach	Approve Grant application
Grant Contracts					
Granting Agency	Contract Title	Duration	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Chelan County (pass through for USFS)	Leavenworth Landscapes - Community Wildfire Defense Grant	12/04/2024 - 12/04/2029	\$2,862,682.38	Landowner outreach and technical assistance, cost share on 700 acres	Approve Executive Director Signature
Recreation and Conservation Office	Cutler Barrier Removal Project	01/01/2025-06/30/2027	\$311,670.00	Construction funding to replace 100% barrier on Eagle Creek	Approve Executive Director Signature
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
Cascade Fisheries	Shared Services Agreement	Renewal with no end date	None	This agreement enables the framework to pay for Cascade Fisheries services and for us to be paid for our services	Approve renewal of shared services agreement
Trout Unlimited	Shared Services Agreement	5-year renewal	None	This agreement enables the framework to pay for Trout Unlimited services and for us to be paid for our services	Approve renewal of shared services agreement
Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Patricia Coley	WSCC NRI	50%	\$1,500.32	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Patricia Coley	WSCC NRI	60%	\$11,375.68	Sprinkler System (442), Micro-Irrigation (441), and Pasture and Hay Planting (512). \$6,876 budget increase	Approve Cost Share Agreement Budget Increase
Grace Lutheran Church	NRCS Equity in Conservation - Demo project	90%	\$5,018.15	A landowner agreement language amendment (Exhibit D) requested to allow GLC reimbursement of outstanding funds to install 2 conservation practices: irrigation efficiencies & raised garden beds.	Approve Cost Share Agreement Amendment
Bret Cartwright	Department of Ecology 2025-0111	100%	\$10,000	150 foot buffer on Little Chumstick (2 acres), BDAs/PALS installations.	Approve Landowner Agreement
Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities Completed	Action Needed
Tierra Learning Center	WSCC NRI	50%	\$3,759	Waste Transfer (634) using a manure spreader to spread compost and improve soil health on alfalfa field.	Approve Cost Share Payment
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts color codes		No color is neutral cashflow			
		Rust color is CCD paying somebody else			
		Green color is CCD receiving money			

The NACD Urban Ag grant application resolution needs to be approved separately from the contract list. Ryan asked that the Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (also known as Cascade Fisheries) contract renewal be approved as an ongoing contract moving forward.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved to approve the Contracts, Cost share Agreements and Cost Share Payment as presented. Amy Bridges seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Application: The NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation grant process requires a Board Resolution to authorize applying. Ryan noted an increase in the maximum amount and potential uses for the funding. The Board was asked to approve Resolution #2025-02 – NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Application. Ryan will update the Board on the application process next month.

M/S/C Amy Bridges moved to approve Resolution 2025-02 2025 NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Application. Dillon Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

Legislative Days Update: Ryan and Pete attended the Legislative Days and met with the Commissioner of Public Lands to explain the importance of DNR working with conservation districts regarding forest health issues.

Ryan gave a brief report about the Rates & Charges bill in Olympia proposing changes to the caps on the amount that can be collected by various sized districts, as well as the removal of the 1% cap on the amount the County Treasurers can charge as a fee for collection. The district rate caps will be the center of the discussions. Ryan mentioned that Senator Goehner supports conservation districts, stating they are responsible, effective and should set their own rates.

Federal Funding Update: Emails regarding federal funds are closely monitored for changes to help Ryan make adjustments to the District budget. Funding agreements are paused for now and the outcome is unknown. He and the Board discussed some options for other funding.

Retirement Party: Nada's retirement party is set for March 4, at 4:00 pm, at "That Pizza Place" in Cashmere. The center has pizza and an arcade for family groups.

March 2025 Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next regular meeting is March 21, 2025, at 1:30 pm. at the Cascadia CD office, 1350 McKittrick St. Ste. B, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following contracts, agreements and cost share payments:

Grant Contracts:

Chelan County, Leavenworth Landscapes – outreach to landowners, technical assistance and cost share on 700 acres;

RCO, Cutler Barrier Project – construction funding to remove fish passage barrier on Eagle Creek.

ILAs / MOUs / MOAs / Contracts:

Cascade Fisheries – perpetual shared services agreement;

Trout Unlimited – 5 year shared services agreement.

Landowner Cost Share Agreements and Payments:

Coley Tree/shrub establishment agreement and budget increase for sprinkler, micro-irrigation and pasture practices;

Barnhart – post fire recovery project, hazard trees, seeding, erosion control;

Grace Lutheran Church – amendment to include additional practice costs within existing budget;

Cartwright – landowner agreement for buffer establishment, BDA/PAL installation on Little Chumstick Creek;

Tierra Learning Center – cost share payment on waste transfer practice completion.

Approved Resolution 2025-02 2025 NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Application.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____