

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING  
1350 McKittrick St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Friday March 13, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT: In Person - Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice-Chair; Russ Truman, Auditor; Amy Bridges, Member; Pete Teigen, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: In Person – Allisa Carlson, WSCC; Scott Scroggie, NRCS; Shana Joy, Joy Bookkeeping LLC and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Cindy Goodell, and Valerie Hampton. Virtual – Lance Brender, Associate; Amber Jackson, Department of Ecology; Shane Collins, City of Chelan.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

CONSENT AGENDA - Russ Truman pointed out a name missing from the attendee list; the edit was noted and the corrected February Regular District Meeting minutes were presented as part of the Consent Agenda, which also included approving the Treasurer's Report and authorization to pay the bills.

**M/S/C Pete Teigen moved and Russ Truman seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.  
The motion passed unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE: None requiring official action.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT –Scott Scroggie reported on the status of contract ranking and stated that a new Memorandum of Understanding will need to be considered and adopted this summer to continue the working agreement between NRCS and districts. The draft agreement should be available soon to review.

The Local Working Group is due to start up again. The Chair needs to be contacted to set the meeting, currently proposed for April 16 from 6-8 pm in Chelan. There is 150,000 per group for prioritization this year. There was general discussion on who attends, how decisions are made and what the focus areas have been in the past. It is a very locally-driven process, so attendance by interested growers and other groups is important.

Lastly, the staffing outlook is grim. Previously they were told roughly 20 people could be hired this year in Washington state. The federal Office of Management and Budget now says they can only hire 218 nationally. Half of those are prioritized to be interns, but only two total positions are slated for Washington. Locally NRCS is losing two planners. As of March 20, they will no longer have anyone but Scott and Lexy when she comes back from leave. Waterville is losing theirs, so only there will only be one planner in Okanogan to cover three counties. Talks are ongoing with the state office to backfill the positions. Scott foresees being able to fulfill the existing workload but new contacts may be slow to get serviced.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT – Allisa Carlson reviewed some of the budget news from the current legislative session. There were cuts in some areas such as Sustainable Farms and Fields, but a net addition of funds for forest health, with no change in the riparian or technical services categories. They are waiting for the governor to sign the budget and see if there are any vetoes. The Commission is restructuring staffing to put programs together by department. Also, Mike Baden is leaving to work with the Spokane CD and there is a current opening for a tribal affairs director. Planning for the next biennium started Feb 9, and they will be rolling out a big survey to all districts to collect input in a cohesive manner. The initial feedback will be presented at the March Commission meeting. Ryan has been helping with proposed requests ranging from base level funding to fully supported operations for programs such as post fire assessments and technical assistance. Cascadia is already doing some similar estimates and can use that information to fill out the survey. Ryan has provided input on the preview of the survey, including a suggestion to provide a Word version of the questions so that respondents can prep their answers before filling in the Formstack version online.

STAFF REPORT –none

GRANT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AND BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL  
(see next page)

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the March 13, 2026 Board Meeting					
<b>Grant Applications</b>					
Granting Agency	Title	Amount		Activities	Action Needed
<b>Grant Contracts</b>					
Granting Agency	Contract Title	Duration	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Grant PUD PRCC	Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration	2026-2030	Up to \$631,000	Monitoring pre and post Roaring Creek restoration for water storage, water loss from evapotranspiration, and affect on streamflow	Approve Executive Director to sign grant agreement
Department of Natural Resources	Support for Roving Chipper and Home Hardening programs	April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026	Up to \$75,000	Roving chipper funding and home hardening cost share program	Approve Executive Director to sign grant agreement
<b>ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts</b>					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation	Cultural Resources Cooperative Agreement	04/01/2026 - 03/31/2031	\$ -	Cooperative agreement to allow for work orders to complete archaeological surveys for MSRF projects	Approve Cooperative Agreement
East Slope Earthworks	RCO FBRB	NA	\$215,565.32	Approve small public works contract for fish barrier removal and bridge installation	Approve and sign construction contract
<b>Landowner Agreements/Cost Share</b>					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Mike Cann	DOE Streamflow	NA	\$28,000	Planting, Weed removal, BDAs	Approve Landowner Agreement
<b>Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments</b>					
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			

It is a light month for approvals. The Department of Natural Resources funding is proposed for the roving chipper and home hardening cost share programs. There won't be a lot of time to implement it, so Patrick and Isobel are looking at what can reasonably be done in two months

and possibly changing the base amount for cost share. Mark is working on a contract proposal to include pre- and post-project monitoring for Roaring Creek. It would cover things such as equipment, measurements, and data analysis. The request is to delegate the agreement finalization to Ryan. Also included is an extension of the agreement with Methow for archaeology help. East Slope Earthworks was the low bidder for the Small Public Works contract to do fish barrier work in Eagle Creek. The construction will start during the fish window, or permitted time frame for in-stream work, in July. There is also a Landowner Agreement for Beaver Dam Analogs and native plantings.

**M/S/C Russ Truman moved and Dillon Miller seconded to approve the Grant Application, Contract, Landowner Agreements and Cost Share payments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS -

**Executive Director's Report:** Ryan indicated the Rates & Charges renewal rate study is getting started, and the proposal needs to be turned in by August 1. The Board will need to decide structure, such as an amount per parcel, per acre, or both and the amount of the rate per type. The District needs to hold a public hearing to present the proposal, and after it is submitted to the County Commissioners, they will hold a public meeting to consider the request. The public meeting can be held just prior to a regular Board meeting or can be held elsewhere if it is expected more room is needed for attendees. It would be advertised as a Special Meeting. Ryan is looking at July to maximize the prep time but needs to verify the Board can attend. FCS Group needs the per acre, per parcel, or combo rates in order to run the models. Rates can be different for different classifications, such as residential vs agricultural parcels. There can also be a per acre rate for ag or forestry land uses but the maximum is 10 cents/acre. It depends on the zoning but a per acre charge would not likely result in much additional funding. Ryan will ask FCS to join the meeting virtually to discuss the process, rates, and model results including possible support for special programs. Following that will be a meeting to look at the details of the proposal to the county. Ryan suggested considering an evening public meeting to allow more community attendance. The Commissioners are aware the District is considering an increase request. They are open to discussion and potentially an inflationary increase approach.

**Staff Exchange Time:** – Kim and Cindy have exchange time that will expire at the end of March. Kim earned a lot when she was first set up on part time salary so that she would earn hours during the busy season to cover slow times. It turned out that there is not really a slow time with all the partner work she is doing. She is now full time but is trying to find time to use the accrued leave. She's been working at it but may not quite use it all. In the same way, Cindy has a hard time using hers between payroll and other deadlines. Ryan would like to extend both to June 30 to use their balances.

**M/S/C Pete Teigen moved and Russ Truman seconded to extend the time for Kim Lancaster and Cindy Goodell to use their carried over Exchange Time to June 30. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Conservation Fair and Supervisor Election:** The theme for the fair is After the Storm, and there are lots of activities planned for the event tomorrow, including a landowner panel discussion at 1 pm. Jim Chedister from the Lake Wenatchee area has done multiple projects with the District, Seth Christian is a farmer on Wapato Lake who has also done a big restoration project on Joe Creek. His work has included a burning trial on a wetland area and a local farm

event. Pete Teigen will also participate representing the Board. There will be raffles for donated prizes. Several partner agencies are hosting activities and information tables, and the District will be inviting participation in the Community Values Survey for information to wrap into the R&C proposal through a QR code and web link.

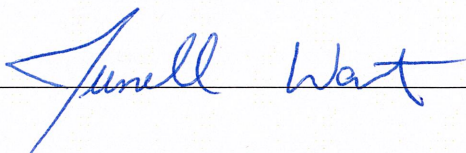
**Sustainable Funding Committee:** Russ volunteered to help with this committee for Districts and the Commission to look at defining what sustainable funding is and what success looks like. Partnerships will benefit from this effort too. They were considering an Illinois model with funding through a portion of the state sales tax, and a land conversion fee. They are now looking at philanthropic, private and public investment. Another idea is a 1/10 of 1 percent lodging tax to get some support from out of town visitors. There was a lot of negative feedback on the two previous approaches proposed at the annual meeting. They are trying to get more Board involvement in the discussions.

**Next Meeting:** The next Regular Meeting will be April 10, 2026 at 1:30 pm in the District conference room.

**The Regular Meeting concluded at 2:45 p.m.**

**Continuation of Planning Workshop:** Ryan described what staff have been doing for their part of the planning. They have been trying to determine what is the “sweet spot” – having enough staff and resources to provide good service. It is not a grand growth plan, just at or near current levels or small growth and the estimated cost to make that happen.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

CHAIR 

RECORDER 