

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Bridges, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Scroggie, NRCS; Shane Collins, City of Chelan; (in person) Lance Brender, Associate Supervisor and Amber Jackson, Department of Ecology (via Zoom); and the following District Staff: Ryan Williams (via Zoom), Cindy Goodell, Elizabeth Jackson, Kathleen Deason, and Valerie Hampton (in person).

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Shane Collins, a councilman with the City of Chelan, introduced himself as a co-representative and liaison from the city to Cascadia. The council intends to send representatives to future meetings to stay informed and share information with the District.

Self-introductions were made for the benefit of all attendees.

CONSENT AGENDA - Russ provided an edit prior to the meeting to the circulated draft minutes; the edited version was presented as part of the Consent Agenda, which included approving the January Regular District Meeting Minutes, the Treasurer's Report and authorization to pay the bills.

**M/S/C Dillon Miller 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 introduced himself and noted that this is his first time attending in person. The most recent program application cycle has closed; the next major milestone is Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility. Farmers need to get their information and forms in by the deadline to be eligible for programs. The ranking period deadline April 17 for applications already on the books. NRCS will be contacting landowners for this process. Chelan County has historically had a low turnout rate in general, largely due to lack of staff. The good news is there are about 100 applicants this year, compared to a 10 year average of about 7. This is due to lots of great outreach by Elly, the growers, the Local Working Group, and some third-party consultants in addition to Cascadia's efforts. The applications are mainly for irrigation and pest management. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is also a big benefit to local forest landowners.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT – none

STAFF REPORT – ADMIN TEAM – Val gave a summary of the Lean program provided by the State Auditor's Office, aimed at improving and streamlining local government operations. The

first session focused on the Accounts Payable process and identified areas where there are challenges. They also facilitated developing some proposed solutions and improvements. The Admin team asked the Board to provide input on the financial and operations reports they currently receive, such as the monthly Treasurer's Report and roughly twice-yearly overall budget reports. There is a wide range of reports and formats provided by different districts. A different format for the Treasurer's Report is being developed for consideration. The Board was asked if they would like to see anything else, such as more detail on specific programs or cash flow projections. Vacation and sick leave accrual status was mentioned as a good thing to review periodically for current liability. Pete said he would like periodic reviews of the budget with grant detail and a sense of which grant balances represent current year funds and which are projected to extend over several years. Ryan will look at ways to present the information.

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

The list includes some new grants, a small public works bid, an amendment to continue design assistance from a Snohomish CD engineer, a work order for project assistance from Cascade Fisheries to fill the gap while Lucas is on leave, and other assistance on call. There is a reciprocal agreement in place with them as well. The duration of the agreement anticipates future similar work as needed. There are lots of landowner agreements, some with updated actions needed. The construction easement with driveway repair needs notarized signatures. Free notary service is available through our Numerica business representative, Jessi Mendoza. Ryan will schedule that signing with Junell. The Keller agreement is approved pending legal review. The district got it back with markups, but after discussion the landowner removed the requests and it's ready for approval and signature. A few of the agreements on the draft list weren't ready yet so they were pulled from today's approval list.

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the February 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
RCO Riparian Grant - CRM Stewardship	RCO Riparian Stewardship (contract in draft)	9/16/2025-9/16/2029	up to \$80,000	Stewardship/maintenance of CCD low tech process based restoration and riparian planting sites	Approve Executive Director to Sign Grant Agreement
EPA- Salmon-Safe Subaward	SS Columbia Basin Partners 2026	1/1/26-12/31/26	\$50,000.00	Salmon-Safe related TA	Approve Executive Director to Sign Grant Agreement
<b>ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts</b>					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
CCD Small Public Works Bid Package	Bid for barrier removal project	Until October 2026	Estimated \$245,000	Selected contractor will remove culvert, remove earthen dam, regrade stream, install steel pedestrian bridge, demobilization. Funding approved as part of prior RCO FBRB award.	Approve small public works bid package release
Blue Pine Fuels	Contract Amendment	Until 3/31/26	Additional \$2,745	Pile Burning at Scout-a-Vista	Approve Executive Director to Sign Contract Amendment
Cascade Fisheries	Restoration Project Assistance	Feb 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027	\$ 24,000.00	Work Order #2026-01 - Staff support from Cascade Fisheries staff for project management, crew support and field work.	Approve Executive Director to Sign Work Order
Snohomish CD	Amendment 2 for Cutler Culvert Engineering Support	6/30/2026	\$9,500 increase, new total budet \$45,000	Amendment to the Cutler Culvert engineering support agreement to include bidding process support to get ready for construction of the project this year.	Approve Executive Director to Sign Amendment
Underwood CD	Center for Technical Development support	01/01/2026 to 06/30/2026	\$4,000	Funding for travel to NACD annual meeting, staff time to support Co-Chair activities for the Center for Technical Development	Approve Contract Agreement
<b>Landowner Agreements/Cost Share</b>					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Daphne Delaski	RGP-DIP	NA	\$ 19,025.00	riparian planting, irrigation installation	Approve Landowner Agreement
David Schach	RCO FBRB	NA	Up to \$20,000	Secure temporary construction access agreement for Cutler Fish Passage Barrier Removal project. Authorizes repair of driveway as part of the demobilization process	Approve Construction Easement; schedule notary
Gerry Cutler	RCO FBRB	NA	value of ~\$250k	Public Works contract: Remove culvert and push up earth dam, regrade stream, install bridge, reveg, demob and closeout.	Approve Landowner Agreement
Bob & Shannon Keller	RCO FBRB	NA	NA	Site access for fish barrier removal project. Regrading of stream channel occurs within their property.	Approve Landowner Agreement
Byron Fenske	RGP-DIP	NA	\$ 17,808.00	Riparian planting and BDA installation	Approve Landowner Agreement
Susan Schwartz	DOE 239	NA	~60,000	Riparian planting and BDA installation	Approve Landowner Agreement
Sam/Hilary Parker	RGP-DIP	NA	\$ 10,300.00	Planting in riparian buffer, obstruction removal	Approve Landowner Agreement
Shaun Seaman	CWDG	100	\$ 1,500.00	Land Clearing for Forest Health Treatment	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Frank DeLong	CWDG	100	\$ 1,500.00	Land Clearing for Forest Health Treatment	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Laura Souyoltzis	RCPP	57%	\$ 5,219.17	Increase Cost Share amount from \$4208.79 to \$5219.17	Approve Cost Share Agreement Amendment
Vicki Matthews, Chelan Community Garden	NRCS Equity	100	\$ 4,500.00	Micro-irrigation	Approve Cost Share Agreement
<b>Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments</b>					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities Completed	Action Needed
Alex Andrushchenko	RCPP	64%	\$ 11,160.00	Land Clearing (460), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Woody Residue Treatment (384)	Approve Cost Share Payment
Laura Souyoltzis	RCPP	57%	\$ 5,219.17	Land Clearing (460), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Woody Residue Treatment (384)	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			

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

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Bank Account Authorized Signers:** In anticipation of Val's retirement, Ryan requested that the Board approve adding Cindy and removing Val as authorized signers for the District accounts.

**MSC: Pete Teigen moved and Dillon Miller seconded to add Cindy Goodell and remove Valerie Hampton as authorized signers on the District's accounts with Numerica Credit Union. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Executive Director:** Ryan recapped recent activity during the legislative session. The proposed changes to District elections did not make it out of committee. Ryan submitted testimony on the financial impact to Cascadia if it became law. He also spoke with legislators about wildfire and other conservation funding and farmland preservation, including the easement in Manson. Cascadia is mainly in District 12, but due to the redrawn boundaries there is also a small portion of District 7 in Wenatchee, so Ryan had the opportunity to talk with another whole set of legislators. He tagged along with the other CDs that are included in that area.

Budget development is beginning for the next biennium that starts July 1, 2027 and Ryan is participating in the process. The Commission is rolling out a new approach to getting feedback from districts for projected needs. They are trying to unify and streamline how they gather information, to make it easier for districts to respond. Ryan reviewed the current draft of the survey. He also worked on the ongoing grants manual review. They are targeting November to have all the updates ready for review and a comment period in January. The Commission has received comments that their processes are condensed, in a hurry and reactive. They are trying to back up and allow more time for turnaround of district input. Cascadia will be partially reimbursed for Ryan's participation in these efforts.

Jones Shotwell Project Update: The new pipeline is done and buried. The large payments for this work require careful cash flow management. The Irrigation Efficiencies cost share is \$1.5 million. A little over half of the Department of Ecology Office of the Columbia River grant is slated for the pumphouse. The irrigation district is dealing with the aftermath of the recent flood event and needs to adjust the remaining planned work to take care of sediment deposits. The expected outcome of the improvements is 7.37 cubic foot per second (cfs) in water savings. This is a significant projected impact on river flow. One additional landowner within the project area is joining the irrigation district and their individual river intake will be removed. Dan Jaspers with Trout Unlimited is managing the overall project. It is a good partnership.

**Strategic Planning:** Staff have been meeting to develop a vision of what a solid, efficient, effective organization looks like. The Board will be able to respond to their results. Ryan would like to set a date and time for Board to review their work and add their own ideas. He proposed starting early for a workshop before the March 13 Board meeting, with a working lunch, followed by the regular meeting, and if needed continuing the workshop after the meeting. He suggested 11 am – 1 pm for the workshop, a projected short regular meeting from 1:30 -2:30, and completing the workshop from 2:30-4. The workshop would include a "get to know you" segment, the staff proposals, and developing a projected budget. He suggested meeting in person if possible. Russ sat in on the first day of planning with the staff. He said it was quite interesting to know about the struggles they work through and where they'd like to see the programs going.

**Supervisor Election:** Three people filed to run for the position and more than a dozen requests for absentee ballots were received. Both are record numbers in at least the past decade.

**Next Meeting:** The next Regular Meeting will be February 13, 2026 at 1:30 pm in the District conference room.

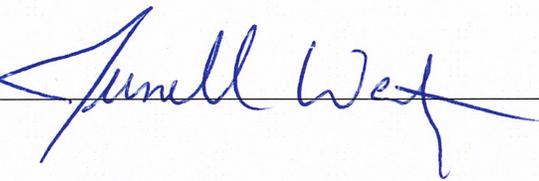
**Executive Session:** The Board entered Executive session at 2:50 pm to discuss a public employee's performance, with the intent to return at 3:10 pm.

Regular Session resumed at 3:10 pm.

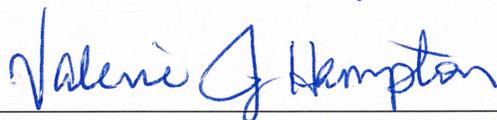
**MSC – Pete Teigen moved and Russ Truman seconded to move Ryan Williams to Executive Director Step 5 in October 2026. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

CHAIR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell West", written over a horizontal line.

RECORDER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Valerie J. Hampton", written over a horizontal line.