

CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
LOCATION: HYBRID: In-person AND Virtual on Zoom
PLANNED DATE AND TIME: 1:30pm on June 12, 2026
ACTUAL MEETING TIME: 1:36pm – 2:54pm

PRESENT AT BOARD MEETING:

Board Members

Junell Wentz, Chair
Dillon Miller, Vice-Chair
Amy Bridges, Member
Lance Brender, Associate Supervisor

Others

Ryan Williams – CCD Executive Director
Cindy Goodell – CCD Staff
Elizabeth Jackson – CCD Staff
Valerie Hampton – CCD Staff
Ryan Baye – WACD Staff
Lexi Gardner – NRCS Staff
Brooke Tacia – FCS Group Staff
Jack Hamilton FCS Group Staff

Summary of Motions Passed

- 1 **Dillon Miller moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The**
- 2 **motion passed unanimously, (3-0).**
- 3 **Amy Bridges moved and Dillon Miller seconded to approve the Landowner Agreements**
- 4 **and Cost Share projects in the grants and contracts list. The motion passed unanimously,**
- 5 **(3-0).**

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Justin Donohue	CCNRD Leavenworth Landscapes	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement
Julie Girard	CCNRD Leavenworth Landscapes	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement
Kelly Carlton	CCNRD Leavenworth Landscapes	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement
Steve Raymond	CCNRD Leavenworth Landscapes	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement
Stephen Barnes	CCNRD Leavenworth Landscapes	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement
Teri Peterson	WSCC RCPP	80%	\$3,840	Fuels Reduction	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Robert Haskey	CCNRD-LL	100%	N/A	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve Landowner Agreement

Dillon Miller moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve NRCS-Cascadia MOU. The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

Amy Bridges moved and Dillon Miller seconded to approve Ryan appointing a staff committee to nominate and select an awardee, as well as to sponsor up to one table at the dinner at his discretion. The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

Full Minutes

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

CONSENT AGENDA - The May Regular District Meeting minutes and authorization to pay the bills were presented.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None requiring official action.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT –Lexi Gardner. NRCS staff are still working on contracting and there are quite a few to obligate in Chelan County. Nationally, NRCS has a new Chief and a new mission statement. They are still working out what changes that might bring to local offices. Signatures are due this month on the new Memorandums of Understanding with Districts. Cascadia's is on today's agenda. New District staff member Robin Buckingham is on track to start Aug 1 to work on NRCS tasks.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT – Allisa Carlson - not available

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) – Ryan Baye. To save funds through the end of the fiscal year, Ryan is attending meetings remotely. He will be back in person at a later date. Work is ongoing on a budget decision package. Agencies received a message from the governor to prepare to cut funds that were put in place after 2019. This means about ½ to ¾ of the Conservation Commission program funds are at risk.

STAFF REPORT – none this month

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

Contracts and Grant Applications for Consideration at the June 12th, 2026 Board Meeting

Grant Applications					
Granting Agency	Title	Amount		Activities	Action Needed
Grant Contracts					
Granting Agency	Contract Title	Duration	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts					
Agreement Entity	Agreement Purpose	Duration	Financial Commitment	Activities	Action Needed
Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities	Action Needed
Justin Donohue	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Julie Girard	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Kelly Carlton	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Steve Raymond	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Stephen Barnes	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Teri Peterson	WSCC RCPP	80%	\$3,840	Fuels Reduction	Approve and Sign Cost Share
Robert Haskey	CCNRD-LL	100%	DIP	Fuels Reduction on properties along Merry Canyon	Approve and Sign LOA
Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments					
Landowner Name	Project Funding Source	Cost Share Rate	Amount	Activities Completed	Action Needed

M/S/C Amy Bridges moved and Dillon Miller seconded to approve the Landowner Agreements and Cost Share projects as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS -

NRCS MOU: The template was provided for review. After the discussion Ryan will edit the document to customize it for Cascadia. Previous agreements included a lot of specific requirements. Districts proposed changes to make them more general. Essentially, the District agrees to assist with and advocate for NRCS programs, chair the Local Working Group, keep NRCS informed of events that affect their work, and collaborate on programs and projects. In turn, NRCS agrees to keep the District informed, attend meetings, provide assistance and technical guidance, and supply annual reporting. Other elements include adherence to technical standards as well as data and privacy access and policies. There is a 30-day notice clause for either party to terminate the agreement. Ryan noted that there is nothing required that is outside what we normally do.

M/S/C Dillon Miller moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve NRCS-Cascadia MOU. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

Public Hearing: The date, time and location needs to be set for the public hearing regarding the Rates and Charges proposal. Location options include the rented space at Pybus Public Market by the hour or the meeting room at the fire station on Easy Street. The space is reserved by the date with no specific time limit for its use. Ryan is looking at evening times with a Zoom option for more access for the public during the week of July 20-24. The Pybus space is only available July 24, while the Easy Street space is open any day that week. The Senior Center may also be a possibility. Lexi suggested the Forest Service headquarters training room on Melody Lane as another option. Alternatively, the Board could hold multiple hearings in various locations and can also invite written comment for those who can't attend. The general plan is to hold the meeting, take public comment, discuss the options and select one to put forward to the County. The Board agreed to hold the hearing on Thursday July 23 at 6 pm and directed Ryan to select the location based on their discussion.

RATES AND CHARGES

At 2 pm FCS Group representatives Brooke Tacia and Jack Hamilton joined the meeting via Zoom to present the Rates & Charges rate model they have been preparing. The introduction included an overview of how Cascadia is currently funded, the affected parcels within the county, and an explanation of direct versus indirect benefit. In the modeling process, a budget is developed reflecting all of the District's planned and desired programs, which is then adjusted for expected grant revenue. The remaining overall Rates & Charges budget would be roughly 6 million. In order to recover the full amount, the collected rate would be over \$100 per parcel. Since that is not feasible, the process is then to reduce the per parcel amount but maintain the proportional benefit by land use class. At a minimum the proposed rate needs to stay within the legal \$25 rate cap.

Three options were presented for consideration, including phased-in rate adjustments such as Year 1 at \$6.50/parcel plus \$1/yr through year 10 when it would total \$15.50/yr. This would supply roughly \$50,000 per year growth for program planning. Option 2 was \$10/parcel/yr 1 plus \$1/yr increase. Option 3 was the full \$25/yr to start, and would stay the same except for a potential inflation allowance. Ryan noted there will probably be an increase in the number of parcels over time as well due to development.

In response to a question about whether there would be a different rate for commercial parcels, Brooke indicated that the direct benefit perceived is greater to private landowners than commercial properties, and the direct benefit to agricultural land is more than to residential, but that all land uses get some indirect benefit from the District's programs.

Ryan noted that there would be variable increases in program offerings based on the different rate levels and resulting revenue – for example, more heritage and community garden support, more agricultural cost share, and more local programs like home hardening would be possible at higher rates. The Commissioners may prefer a single increase versus gradual escalation of the rate. The District needs to have a suite of options ready to respond to their input.

One variation that was suggested was starting at \$6.50 and increasing by \$2/year. This level could probably start with support for education programs, and add stable home hardening and ag cost share as funds became available.

Jack Hamilton left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Lance Brender joined the meeting online at 2:35 pm

After additional discussion it was decided that Ryan's assignment is to summarize the selected options and match up possible programs with them.

Community Award Night: A local recreational organization, Wenatchee TREAD, is having an award night in August to highlight outstanding community members. They put out a call to see if other entities want to add an award to the mix. Cascadia could join with them, and it would get some exposure for conservation work with less effort than putting on a separate event. The award could be Cooperator of the Year or a similar recognition. Ryan would gather a staff committee for nominations and selection to meet the July 7 submission deadline. The District could sponsor a table at the dinner for the awardees and District attendees. The cost would be per table, such as \$500 for 10 place settings. They would provide all the organization as well as the award itself. The attendees would be in the room with other entities that are not typical to

105 District events, with the goal to expand Cascadia's recognition in the community. Ryan
106 requested approval to participate in the event.

107 **M/S/C Amy Bridges moved and Dillon Miller seconded to approve Ryan appointing a staff**
108 **committee to nominate and select an awardee, as well as to sponsor up to one table**
109 **at the dinner at his discretion. The motion passed unanimously.**

110 **Chelan City Council:** Ryan indicated that he plans to attend a council meeting in July and give
111 a presentation about the District, probably including information about the Rates & Charges
112 proposal.

113 **Washington Grown:** District staff will be filming a new episode in June with a pear grower in
114 Dryden who has received Salmon Safe certification and has a planting project upcoming with the
115 District. It will air next winter.

116 **Our Valley, Our Future:** The organization is gearing up for the next five year plan. Ryan is
117 participating on several committees for the effort.

118 **Staff Changes:** Valerie Hampton is retiring from the District. Her last meeting is today. Ryan
119 and Cindy will be looking at how best to backfill the workload and support various office needs.
120 The new employee for the NRCS staff position, Robin Buckingham, was able to attend the
121 WADE conference, meet people and make some connections, and is preparing to start in August.

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

124 **The Regular Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.**

CHAIR

RECORDER