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 September 11, 2026
ACTUAL MEETING TIME: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

PRESENT AT BOARD MEETING:

Board Members	**Others**
Junell Wentz - Chair	Ryan Williams – CCD Executive Director
Amy Bridges, Member - Zoom	Cindy Goodell – CCD Staff
Pete Teigen, Member - Zoom	Robin Buckingham – CCD Staff & NRCS - Zoom
Russ Truman, Auditor - Zoom	Liz Jackson – CCD Staff - Zoom
Lance Brender, Associate Supervisor	Allisa Carlson - SCC

Summary of Motions Passed

Russ moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed. (4-0)

Pete moved and Amy seconded to approve the Agreements, Contracts and Cost Share payments in the grants and contracts list. Russ abstained. The motion passed. (3-0, 1 Abstained)

Landowner Agreements/Cost Share					
Landowner Name	**Project Funding Source**	**Cost Share Rate**	**Amount**	**Activities**	**Action Needed**
Chad Steiner	WSCC SFF	60%	$ 12,750	Cover crop, conservation cover, mulching, temporary fencing	Approve Cost Share Agreement
David Thacker	WSCC NRI	75%	$ 2,539.60	Sprinkler System (IPM)	Approve Cost Share Agreement
DNR	SCC RGP	NA	NA	Land Use License - planting, maintenance, access, monitoring	Approve Executive Director to sign Land Use License
Ken Hemberry	WSCC NRI	75%	$ 6,465.59	Sprinkler system	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Ken Hemberry (Foster)	WSCC NRI	75%	$ 3,029.64	Irrigation pipeline	Approve Cost Share Agreement

Landowner Cost Share/Contract Payments					
Landowner Name	**Project Funding Source**	**Cost Share Rate**	**Amount**	**Activities**	**Action Needed**
Matt Jones	WSCC NRI	60, 60, 75%	$ 3,474.60	Cover crop, mulching, micro-irrigation	Approve Cost Share Agreement
Gerry Cutler	SCC RGP	NA	NA	planting, instream structures	Approve Landowner Agreement
Trey Adams	SCC RGP	NA	NA	planting, debris removal	Approve Landowner Agreement
Joseph Monahan	SCC RGP	NA	NA	planting, instream structures	Approve Landowner Agreement
Wendi Merriman	WSCC NRI	75%	$ 5,970.90	Micro-irrigation	Approve Cost Share Agreement

ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts					
Agreement Entity	**Agreement Purpose**	**Duration**	**Financial Commitment**	**Activities**	**Action Needed**
Cascade Fisheries	Youth Education Support	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2028	$ 22,000	Support Youth Education Programming and professional development for teachers.	Approve Executive Director to sign Contract
Snohomish CD	Cultural Resources	07/15/2026 - 12/15/2026	$ 27,001.25	Cultural Resources support for Snohomish CD projects	Approve Executive Director to sign Contract
Absolute Forestry LLC	Merry Canyon-North Fuel Break	08/27/2026 - 12/31/2027	$ 120,000	Thinning, pruning, piling	Approve Contract
Cascade Fisheries	RGP TA Project Design work order	08/21/2026 - 06/30/2027	$ 90,000	project design - Leavenworth City Property, WDFD Cashmere	Approve Executive Director to sign Contract

				Ponds, Colockum Wildlife Area	
Agreement Entity	**Agreement Purpose**	**Duration**	**Financial Commitment**	**Activities**	**Action Needed**
Ecological Services	Burn Plan Writing	09/08/2026 - 09/30/2026	$ 1,800	Broadview Burn Plan	Approve Executive Director to sign Contract
Washington Conservation Society	Membership with WCS	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027	$ 150	Provides membership to the Washington Conservation Society and allows them to be a fiscal sponsor for non profit only grants	Approve Memorandum of Understanding
CCNRD	Hendricks CCNRD Work Order	08/21/2026 - 06/30/2027	$ 47,496	planting, debris removal	Approve to sign
DOE / Washington Conservation Corps	Crew Time	10/01/2026 - 09/30/2027	$ 30,115	WWC services for project implementation and Maintenance -19 days	Approve Executive Director to sign Contract

Full Minutes

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

CONSENT AGENDA - The September 14 Regular District Meeting minutes and authorization to pay the bills were presented.
Russ moved and Amy Bridges seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed. (4-0)

Pete moved and Amy seconded to approve the Agreements, Contracts and Cost Share payments in the grants and contracts list. Russ abstained. The motion passed. (3-0, 1 abstained)

CORRESPONDENCE: None requiring official action.

NRCS Update – Robin

- NRCS is moving to an "Act Now" sign-up process for fiscal year 2027, structured as first in, first served — the application date (not eligibility date) determines processing order.

- **Application deadline:** December 18. Eligibility deadlines have not been established at this time but interested participants should apply this as soon as possible.
- Robin noted there may be some growing pains as this new process rolls out as this is a new system for NRCS-WA

DNR Partnership — Sam Halverson

- Sam Halverson (DNR) will be taking over the forestry work for Chelan County previously handled by Jeff Pulson.

Burnt Area Response

- NRCS/CCD to participate as part of the Burnt Area Response group.

Wildfire Recovery Sign-Up — Fund Pool

- An Emergency wildfire recovery EQIP/CSP sign-up and associated fund pool is in development.
- Patrick has expressed interest in doing this work through Emergency Watershed Program, but funding is an open question — specifically, how to cover the required 50% match.
- The Commission has indicated they can pick up 50%, but it's unclear whether they're actually able to follow through on that commitment.
- This funding mechanism is typically used for flood projects, so applying it to wildfire recovery work may require adaptation.

Post-Fire Project Planning

- Discussion of what post-fire project opportunities exist, particularly for the Little Giant Fire area — possible focus on the drainages identified in the BAER report (scope to be confirmed).
- The SiSi Fire footprint is mostly in wilderness/wild land, so there's limited opportunity for on-the-ground restoration projects there.
- The State Engineer has authority over how post-fire work is structured going forward. Patrick is coordinating with the State Engineer's office on this.
- Currently, approved work is limited to flood protection, but there's interest in expanding the scope to cover broader post-fire recovery work.

Budget Update — Alissa

- State budget requests have been submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Mid-December, CCD will learn how the request compares against budget expectations.
- Budget covers all programs; several have modest increases.
- Staffing: Alan Warren has been hired and is working to organize programs.
- Author Smith (Lewis Conservation District) riparian program contact.

Supervisor Election Process / Lawsuit-Related Rule Changes

- Commission meeting next Thursday will address election changes prompted by a lawsuit. Rules under discussion mostly concern ballot handling, voter verification, and re-verifying voter eligibility on the day of voting.

Three options under consideration for CCD's elections:

- Move to the general election.
- Change supervisor terms to 2 years so they align with major election cycles.
- Standardize the month in which all conservation districts hold elections.
- Running a ballot costs an estimated $100,000 per election cycle — another unfunded mandate. CCD's most recent election drew 39 votes.
- WACD meeting on elections: Friday the 18th.
- Pete asked whether there are best practices to show legislators that CCD is actively working to engage constituents, even when participation is low.
- Ryan noted advertising will increase, and the ballot-request deadline is being adjusted (previously same-day as the election). In-person voting in Wenatchee is a barrier for many residents; a mailing list for ballots is being considered.
- Allisa noted Conservation Month includes a statewide effort to advertise elections, though staggered election dates across districts make this difficult.
- Lincoln Conservation District mails ballots to all eligible voters as their practice.

Prescribed Burn — Wenatchee/Broadview

- A burn is planned in the Wenatchee/Broadview area; advertising/notification to the public is needed.

DNR Land Use License

- Completed via DocuSign; signed by Ryan 8/31.

Public Meeting — September 21

- Time/Location: 9:30 a.m., 400 Douglas St Suite #201, Wenatchee, WA 98801 (Administration Building, Meeting Room #1).
- Agenda is expected by next Thursday. Public comments will be accepted in writing or in person; unclear whether public testimony can be given via Zoom.
- Ryan will attend in person. Pete raised a potential conflict-of-interest question regarding Ryan speaking in an official capacity, but confirmed Ryan could speak as a private citizen.
- Russ will attend and would like Ryan to speak. Russ will address Stehekin's needs and last year's flooding in Leavenworth. Pete will speak to CCD's flood response support in Leavenworth (chipper deployment).
- Junell will attempt to join via Zoom.
- **Action item:** Ryan to re-send the meeting notice ahead of time.

Ryan's Report

Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association Donations Resolution

- CFNCW will serve as fiscal sponsor in place of CCD for Prescribed Burn Association (PBA). Once funds hit CCD's books they become public dollars, complicating stipend payments; routing through CFNCW is cleaner. PBA will complete the application for this change.

WACD Area Meeting: October 20, Okanogan (full day). Topics include clean air regulations, backyard/prescribed burns and their effect on conservation practice work, and a tribal presentation. Russ plans to attend; others interested should notify Ryan.

- Legislative meeting next Friday: Russ and Ryan attending in person, Lance attending online.
- **Annual meeting (Skamania Lodge) is December 3–5;** business meeting is Saturday. Hoping for stronger attendance at the business meeting. Ryan and Lance plan to attend.
- Ryan will drive separately to continue to Spokane for an October 21 meeting.

FY2027 Budget Planning

- Exempt salary threshold (labor law) continues to rise, creating overtime scheduling challenges. Flex time has worked as a workaround but is becoming less viable at the new threshold.
- CPI timing will shift to match the state's methodology (June) rather than CCD's previous practice (November).
- Cost-share and insurance costs are both running over budget; current insurance plan was last updated six years ago.
- Ryan proposed submitting both the $500 and $750 deductible options to the master application, with budget impact to be reviewed at the October meeting. Pete asked for further discussion before finalizing.

Russ moved and Amy seconded approval to submit WCIF Master application with the 500 and 750 deductible plans and any additional options that would deem benefit to employees. (e.g., Life Line). The motion passed. (4-0)

WACD Sustainable Fundin Committee Update — Russ

- University of Washington is recommending a statewide 1% increase to the lodging and transit tax to fund conservation districts, presented at the WACD Skamania meeting.
- Other funding ideas discussed include a $1 increase to the tire excise tax and a bottle tax on soda containers.
- No formal vote at this stage — information-gathering phase, drawing on completed studies to build the case for legislators.

Budget Status

- Ryan shared the current status of our 2026 budget and reported spending is as expected.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Meeting will be October 9, 2026 at 1:30 pm in the District conference room**.**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

CHAIR_____

RECORDER_____