

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING  
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557  
14 N Mission St.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Friday, January 20, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; Amy Bridges, Auditor; M. Pete Teigen, member; and Kurt Hosman, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; Frank Curtin, NRCS; and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, Amanda Newell, and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

**Consent Agenda:** Approve the December 16, 2022, Regular District Meeting minutes and the January 3, 2023, Special District Meeting minutes, approve the November Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of bills.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. (Unanimous)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Frank Curtin

Frank, the new NRCS person filling Chris Wright’s position, introduced himself to the Board and gave a brief background of what counties he’s previously worked in. He’s working closely with Patrick and Joe on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC): Mike Baden

The legislative session started last week. The Commission is watching three big areas as they are being reviewed: budget, elections, and riparian related funding. The Governor’s budget came out in December. The legislators will complete the budget process sometime in March.

Almost everything the Commission asked for was provided for in the Governor’s budget. It included funding for salmon restoration and outreach. There is also funding to work with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on community wildfire and Firewise. Funds for an Ag science program were included as well.

The election watch – Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and the Commission are in support of recommendations put forth by the Joint Committee last fall. WACD supports a basic financial report for folks running for election. A legislator would like to submit an election compromise for study of costs for special districts to participate in general elections.

There was a brief discussion about concerns over the District being in the general election. Mike asked the Board to feel free to coordinate these concerns with Ryan and send them on to the Commission and the WACD.

Junell and Dillon are due to review the Public Records and Open Public Meetings training, which consists of watching the videos and submitting the form to the Commission. Mike asked to set up a time with Pete for his supervisor training. The July Commission meeting will be held in Wenatchee, and will include a tour of local projects.

#### STAFF REPORT: Amanda

Amanda's presentation included Kids in the Creek (KITC) at the Entiat Fish Hatchery, Salmon Fest, and Kids in the Forest (KITF). A newer program is Kids in the Snow (KITS) where students are learning about snow and how much water it holds for release in the spring. Kirk will talk more about this program in June during his report.

The District is moving the website over to Squarespace this year. Squarespace provides more opportunities to edit the content. This year is the District's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Amanda asked for suggestions on ways to celebrate. The first all-Spanish newsletter will be online and on Facebook this month, making a great outreach resource. The photo contest went well and local businesses continue to support the calendar. Upcoming events include the Backyard Fruit workshop on February 25, from 9 to noon. Kirk is working on details for the Native Planting 101 series in March.

Amanda provided some of the survey responses received so far about the newsletter. There was a brief discussion about the options. Feedback will continue to be gathered.

**Grant Application and Contract Reviews:** Ryan discussed the list of requests with the Board, including a Food Systems grant that would fund a translator for outreach to Spanish speaking residents; a short duration agreement with Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, to be amended when they receive further funding; and a new interlocal agreement with the recently re-named Columbia Basin Conservation District for work in Grant County and the Columbia Basin.

#### **Grant Application**

Approve submitting a Conservation Commission Food Systems grant application.

#### **Grant Contracts**

Accept Conservation Commission Food Systems grant contract, if awarded, and approve hiring a translator for the work.

Accept Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board – Entiat WAT contract.

#### **ILA/MOU/MOA/Contracts**

Approve Columbia Basin Conservation District Interlocal Agreement sharing services for cultural resource work.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Dillon seconded to approve the following as listed: the Conservation Commission Food Systems application, contract and hiring of a translator; the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Entiat WAT contract; and the Columbia Basin CD Interlocal Agreement. (*Unanimous*)

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Office Space:** Ryan met with Pete to discuss the pros and cons of the office space and cost. Valerie, Alex and Ryan checked out the space on McKittrick St. Ryan provided a list of the pros and cons for Board review and discussion of the three options currently under consideration. The Board asked for information regarding lease options in each scenario.

Pete left the meeting at 3:21 p.m., noting he supports what the Board decides.

Ryan was asked to work out the details of option 3, and the Board agreed to approve option 3 upon Junell's final review. Option 2 is the fallback plan.

M/S/C Amy moved and Kurt seconded to approve Option 3 Office Space plan upon Junell's final review, and Option 2 as the fallback plan. *(Unanimous)*

**Seasonal Technician:** Ryan asked the Board about hiring seasonal technicians for the year. One or two would be needed this spring and a possible third person would be needed for June BDA work. The work season would be this spring into October. Valerie suggested revising the position description to include the seasonal time frame.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Kurt seconded to approve the hiring of up to three seasonal technicians for the year. *(Unanimous)*

**Sustainable Farms & Fields Program:** This is a cost share opportunity for landowners who want to convert from fossil fuel to non-fossil fuel, such as electric tractors. Ryan asked the Board for their feedback on this program. After asking some questions, the Board asked Ryan to bring back more information to the next meeting and have Elizabeth join the discussion at that time.

**Cascade Orchard Irrigation Project Request:** Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources, asked that the District serve as the pass through for funding to support an irrigation project for Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company that will impact instream flow. The Board deferred the decision until Mike can come and discuss the project with them.

Amy left the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

**Payment Paperwork:** Valerie discussed the new accounting program and the paperwork process including approval of payments. She brought in a few examples of the new reports generated from the program.

**Operations Manual:** Ryan sent out the manual for review. One item regarding reimbursement of mileage for supervisors to attend monthly meetings was briefly discussed. Ryan will update the policy and have the Board review and vote on it at the next meeting.

**Executive Director's Report:** Since the meeting has been a long one, Ryan will discuss District cell phones next month.

Ryan was recently informed that there are two dairies in Chelan County. Districts are responsible to write the landowner dairy plans for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), but the

District doesn't have qualified staff to write the plans. Ryan would like to use Commission funds to have a Snohomish CD person come train Elizabeth to do so.

There will be an executive session at the next meeting for Ryan and staff evaluations.

Junell will not be available for the February meeting.

**February 2023 Meeting Date and Agenda:** The next Regular meeting is February 17, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

**Board Member Comments & Open Discussion:** None

The Regular District Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

**Summary of Official Actions:**

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following as listed: the Conservation Commission Food Systems application, contract and hiring of a translator; the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Entiat WAT contract; and the Columbia Basin CD Interlocal Agreement;

Approved Option 3 Office Space plan upon Junell's final review, and Option 2 as the fallback plan;

Approved the hiring of up to three seasonal technicians for the year.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ASSISTANT \_\_\_\_\_