

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, October 21, 2022**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Pete Teigen, member.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Paulson, NRCS; and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, Elizabeth Jackson, and Nada Wentz. Attendees were present in person and via Zoom.

Junell Wentz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Consent Agenda: Approve the September 16, 2022, Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the August 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: Jeff Paulson

Jeff reported that the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application deadline is coming up. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) applications for 2022 have ended and NRCS staff are now focusing on 2023. The Waterville NRCS office is still under construction and the timeline for finishing is not yet known. The new Resource Conservationist for the Waterville office will possibly be onboard in October. A new Resource Conservationist is coming to the Wenatchee office soon.

STAFF REPORT: Elizabeth Jackson

Elizabeth (Liz) gave a brief introduction of her past work at other offices and her current workload for the District which involves soil health, salmon safe planning, assistance with the Spanish interpretations for the newsletter articles and conservation project application data entries into the Conservation Practice Data System or CPDS. She also presented some slides of projects like the Saddle Rock Garden work and the matchstick forest station for the Kids in the Forest program.

Grant Applications and Contract Reviews: Ryan went through the contract list provided to the Board, gave brief explanations of each and requested Board approval.

M/S/C Dillon moved and Amy seconded to approve the following applications, grant agreements and cost share payments as listed. (Unanimous)

Approve Grant Applications:

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) application for funding to continue Kids in the Creek (KITC), Kids in the Forest (KITF), winter snow school curriculum and after school program support;

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) application to fund implementation of the Cutler fish passage barrier removal project;

Accept Grant Agreements and Authorize Executive Director's signature on contracts:

Department of Ecology (DOE) project to restore streamflow for salmonids in the Wenatchee & Entiat watersheds;

Conservation Commission addendum for Red Apple Fire recovery projects;

DOE Wenatchee Watershed Habitat Restoration & Water Quality Project;

PUD Tributary Committee Stormy Creek Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs);

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Mud and Potato Creek BDAs.

Approve Cost-Share/Contract Payments: Partial cost share payment for the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), Rudolph project.

Other Business:

Office Space Remodel - Ryan discussed the lease proposal and options for the District office space, including the cost increases and office space location. He and the Board talked about other potential options.

Executive Director's Report:

Cost of Living – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate is at 8.2%, which is a bit lower than it was at the last meeting. General costs are going up everywhere. Ryan discussed the plan to build up safety measures in the funding to cover the anticipated increases. Health care costs for 2023 are still unknown, but the dental coverage rate is going down a little, likely due to the increased number of staff. He will continue to work on the budget for next year and keep the Board updated.

WACD Area and Annual Meetings – Ryan attended the WACD Area meeting in Waterville on Wednesday. It was a good meeting and there were a few resolutions proposed by the group to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in November. The list of resolutions will be sent out to Board members prior to the November District meeting and available for discussion at that time.

Ryan discussed the possibility that there will be a proposal at the WACD Annual meeting regarding basic funding for Conservation Districts. He mentioned that there might be a request for a letter of support from District Boards to forward on to legislators ahead of the next budget process. Ryan and the Board briefly discussed this topic and the Board gave their guidance on adding the District's signature to the letter of support.

Ryan asked Board members to consider attending the Annual Meeting so that they may give their input on the proposed resolutions and vote on them. Junell and Dillon thought that they would be able to attend portions of the three-day meeting.

Chelan County Commissioners Meeting – Ryan will be meeting with the County Commissioners on November 22nd and giving a presentation showing the District's project work. Ryan invited Board members to attend if they desired.

Newsletter Update – Ryan and Amanda worked on ways to structure survey questions about the newsletter. The survey questions will be emailed to the Board for their review. Suggestions or items to include are welcomed. The next newsletter will be printed and mailed at the end of October. The survey questions will be accessible through a QR code on the newsletter.

District Branded Clothing – The Board was asked about purchasing branded clothing for staff to wear at meetings and in the field. The clothing mentioned were button-down shirts, T-shirts and hats with the District’s logo. The Board agreed to the purchase of branded clothing.

Holiday Office Party – Ryan would like to have an office holiday party this year. The Board agreed and felt there is a benefit to gathering and celebrating together.

Springbrook Accounting System – The new system plans are progressing. The data should be ready by October 3 and the plan is to have training for staff in November, use the new system for time sheets in December and have it all running by January 2023.

Set the November 2022 Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting is November 18, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Board Member comments & Open Discussion: No discussion.

The Regular District Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following:

Grant Applications:

- Office (RCO) application for funding to continue Kids in the Creek (KITC), Kids in the Forest (KITF), winter snow school curriculum and after school program support;
- US Fish and Wildlife Service application to fund implementation of the Cutler fish passage barrier removal project;

Grant Contracts:

- DOE project to restore streamflow for salmonids in the Wenatchee & Entiat watersheds;
- Conservation Commission addendum for Red Apple Fire recovery projects;
- DOE Wenatchee Watershed Habitat Restoration & Water Quality Project;
- PUD Tributary Committee Stormy Creek Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs);
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board Mud and Potato Creek BDAs;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share Payments:

- Partial cost share payment for the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), Rudolph project.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____