

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, June 17, 2022
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dillon Miller, Vice Chair.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Baden, WSCC; Chris Wright, 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 1:44 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No comment.

Consent Agenda: Approve the May 20, 2022, Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the May Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE - None

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Chris Wright
NRCS staff are wrapping up the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications. One application for CSP was received. Chris will be busy with CRP contracts in Douglas County and working with Joe, Patrick & Ryan to get the ranking criteria for RCPP completed to be able to advertise the first RCPP round.

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC): Mike Baden

The Conservation Commission is gearing up for end of the year project work; districts are spending grant money so the grants can be closed out. The riparian funding is a big focus. Comments on the funding guidelines are due by July 1st. The Commission is also developing the biennial budget packages this summer. District elections and appointments were certified at the May meeting. Mike thanked Cascadia for all the assistance with the Foster Creek financial report.

STAFF REPORT: Amanda Newell

Amanda reported on the Kids in the Creek, Kids in the Forest, Rolling Rivers events. Also included with Kids in the Forest lessons are snowshoe tours, fire behavior, weather and climate. During the COVID pandemic many of the lessons were turned into virtual classes. Native Planting 101 for adults was also conducted virtually and recorded. All the recorded sessions are available to review later.

Outreach is going well now that folks can meet in person again. The Entiat River appreciation date is set for July 30. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend this and other events. Many of the events are being posted on Facebook, and the quarterly District newsletter is in full swing spotlighting landowner projects. Two of the newsletters are expanded versions with lots of additional information from cooperating agencies. Home fire risk assessments are available again.

Amanda and the Board discussed next steps with all of the education programs including outreach to the Spanish speaking communities with flyers, lessons in Spanish, interpreters for events and translations for the flyers and other printed material. Amanda thanked the Board for allowing her to present at the meeting.

Review and Consider Grant Applications and Contracts:

Grant Applications: The Coalitions and Collaborations AIM application is to explore the feasibility of prescribed burn associations, and to support training and liability discussions.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Amy seconded to approve the grant application. Pete abstained. (Passed)

Grant Contracts: The following are proposed addenda under the Commission Master Contract:

1. Implementation – basic program support, technical assistance and youth education;
2. Salmon Recovery Funding – landowner outreach for riparian projects and riparian planting projects;
3. Sustainable Farms and Fields – Landowner outreach for sustainable farm & field practices;
4. Community Wildfire Resilience – chipping program, home assessments, forestry planning.

M/S/C Amy moved and Kurt seconded to approve the grant contracts as listed. (Unanimous)

ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts:

1. Methow Conservancy – Allows work orders to request District archaeologist services for cultural resources survey work;
2. Skagit CD – Agreement to share technical services between Districts such as cultural resources or other expertise.

Approval for Executive Director to sign the following agreements:

1. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - One year agreement to use DNR contract for and LiDAR flight services as a part of the Entiat MEG project;
2. Yakama Nation – Two-year agreement for cultural resources on-site monitoring and landowner outreach in the Entiat Watershed;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share: Landowner agreement with Wenatchee River Institute to remove hazardous trees.

Cost-Share/Contract Payments:

1. Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) – Maximum \$75,000 payment for thinning up to 100 acres in the Chelan Coulee Preserve pending certification of completed quantities;
2. Wenatchee River Institute – \$4,000 for removal of hazardous trees, pending the site inspection.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Amy seconded to approve the contracts, agreements, and cost share payments as presented, pending certification/site inspection. (Unanimous)

Officer Elections:

The following slate of officers were nominated: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; Amy Bridges, Auditor.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to approve the slate of officers as nominated. (Unanimous)

Executive Director's Report: A new Authorized Signature form for the Commission and new bank account signature form are needed due to Board changes.

Policy Reviews: Ryan and staff are discussing the changes needed to the District Policies. The policies will be brought to the Board for review.

Network Server: Ryan was informed that the server needs to be rebuilt. The network will need to be offline while the rebuild is done. Staff suggested that they have retreat day and float the Entiat while the server is down. The Board members were invited to attend.

Conservation Easement: The district was approached by the Washington Farmland Trust about sending a letter of support for a conservation easement on a family-owned orchard. After a brief discussion the Board asked that Ryan draft a letter for their review. They also showed interest in having a presentation regarding the easement process so they better understand all that is involved.

WADE Tour: Ryan took the new Conservation Commission Executive Director on a tour of Chelan County. They met with several landowners and board members on the drive through the Wenatchee watershed. Ryan attended all three days of WADE training and had some good conversations with folks.

Set the July 2022 Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting date is July 15, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Board Member comments & Open Discussion: No discussion.

The Regular District Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following:

Grant Applications:

Coalitions and Collaborations AIM application for feasibility of prescribed burn associations and support for training and liability discussions;

Grant Contracts: 22/23 Addenda to Conservation Commission Master Contract -

Implementation, Salmon Recovery Funding, Sustainable Farms and Fields, Community Wildfire Resilience;

ILAs/MOUs/MOAs/Contracts:

Methow Conservancy cultural resources service agreement;

Skagit Conservation District technical assistance and cultural resources agreement;

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) LiDAR services agreement and Executive Director signature;

Yakama Nation cultural resources and outreach support and Executive Director signature;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share:

Wenatchee River Institute hazardous tree removal cost share contract;

Cost-Share/Contract Payments:

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) cost share payment for Chelan-Coulee thinning project;

Wenatchee River Institute cost share payment for hazardous tree removal, pending site inspection;

Approved the nominated slate of officers as follows: Junell Wentz, Chair; Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; Amy Bridges, auditor.

CHAIR _____

OFFICE ASSISTANT _____