

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
1350 McKittrick St
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, August 18, 2023**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dillon Miller, Vice Chair; and M. Pete Teigen, Member.

OTHERS PRESENT: 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 1:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Consent Agenda: Approve the July 21, 2023 Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the July Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of current bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: None

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (WSCC) REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT: Amanda Newell

Amanda provided updates and pictures of the different education programs currently conducted by District staff. Education programs covered were Kids in the Creek (KITC), Kids in the Forest (KITF), Kids in the Snow (KITS) and the number of students involved in each program. Beaver Workbooks, 12-page activity books for students, are now available in English and Spanish. District pamphlets and newsletters are also being translated to Spanish.

Amanda had updates regarding the District website development, as well as responses about the newsletter from surveys and Facebook clicks. There was discussion on the website changes and the newsletter responses, along with options to keep the community updated about the programs available to them. Concerns about the environmental impact of printing and mailing newsletters were shared.

Grant Application and Contract Review and Approval

Grant Applications:

Community Foundation grant application for after school program support for Kids in the Creek (KITC), Kids in the Forest (KITF), and Kids in the Snow (KITS).

Grant Contracts:

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) grant contract for the purchase of trail cameras for the Watchable Wildlife program, and for bussing services for participating students.

ILAs / MOUs / MOAs / Contracts:

Franklin Conservation District agreement for 10 to 13 weeks of Wheat Week classes for the 2023-24 school year.

Chelan County Natural Resources Department (NRD) Work Order for field investigations to develop project opportunities in the 25 Mile Creek watershed.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Vehicle Replacement Plan: The Blazer is showing wear and tear along with leaking oil. It needs to be replaced. The Sierra isn't heavy duty enough to pull the chipper or haul water for prescribed burns. Ryan proposed using some Wildfire funding to purchase a truck large enough to easily haul the chipper and water tanks. The Blazer could be traded for a smaller truck to haul the cargo trailer and get better gas mileage. The Sierra would be kept for field work. Rates and Charges money could be used to help with the purchase of the smaller truck. The Board approved the plan.

Office Move: The August meeting was held in the new office building on McKittrick Street. Ryan received approval from the City to hold the September meeting at the same location. Office areas have been painted and somewhat set up for the staff. Some carpet replacement and remodeling remains to be done in the front office.

The plan is to move staff the first week of October and get the remaining items from the Mission Street office out by the end of October. Storage space for field equipment remains to be worked out. A list of surplus items to dispose of will be brought to the next board meeting. Disposal methods were discussed briefly, along with field equipment storage needs. Cargo containers are not allowed in city limits so other options are being considered.

Executive Director's Report:

Jones Shotwell Ditch: Trout Unlimited (TU) is ready to move forward with the project. They plan to apply for an Irrigation Efficiencies grant and approached the District about routing the funds through the District. Ryan asked the Board members for their opinion. A brief discussion regarding workload and cash flow followed. The Board is in favor of working with TU.

Strategic Plan: The current strategic plan ends in June of 2024. Ryan would like to complete the new plan this winter and add a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) component pending recommendations from the Commission.

Grant Writing Consultant: Ryan and the Board talked about hiring a short-term grant writing consultant. Grant writing uses up a lot of staff time at very busy times of the year. The District could use help with the education grant writing and some of the bigger grant rounds. Ryan would like to try it for a little while. The Board supports the idea on a short-term basis.

Commission Proposal: Ryan submitted a request for funding for Wildfire funds through the Commission that includes a Home Hardening rebate program. The potential funding would also

help cover costs for fuels crews, cost share, and a wildfire outreach position. He should hear the results in the next week.

September 2023 Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting is September 15, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at the new office space, 1350 McKittrick St., Wenatchee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved the following Grant applications, and Contracts:

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CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____