

**CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 6961 1557
14 N Mission St.
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Friday, September 16, 2022**

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 Kaputa, CCNRD; Jeff Paulson, NRCS; and the following District staff: Ryan Williams, Valerie Hampton, Alex Harwell, 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 August 19, 2022, Regular District Meeting minutes, approve the August Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of bills.

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

CORRESPONDENCE - None

LAKE CHELAN WATER QUALITY SAMPLING: Mike Kaputa, Chelan Co. Natural Resources Dept. Mike reported on the water quality sampling and data collection for the Lake Chelan Keep It Blue program. The changes from previous years include the program name change to Lake Chelan Keep It Blue and the inclusion of monitoring for invasive weeds and some invasive species. The County would like to continue the program. The cost of the program is about \$45,000 a year and the core funders are the Bureau of Reclamation, Chelan County, the city of Chelan, and Cascadia Conservation District. Mike asked that the District Board consider committing to support of \$5,000 a year for the next two to five years. Mike concluded his report and left the meeting so that the Board could discuss their decision. Val said there was no payment in 2021 but Mike probably viewed the \$5,000 paid in January 2022 as the 2021 contribution. The Board was in favor of support for the program for 2022 and asked Ryan to review the budget to determine whether it can be continued in future years.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to approve \$5,000 in support of the Water Quality work on Lake Chelan for 2022. (Unanimous)

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Jeff Paulson

Jeff briefly reported on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications/contracts he is currently working on. He is also filling Chris’s role as liaison for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) work with Patrick and Joe.

STAFF REPORT: Alex Harwell

Alex discussed her work on riparian and in-stream projects, specifically Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). She has been working to implement the 4 projects funded by a 2022 Department of Ecology grant. Project work began in June and is continuing through October. Alex also successfully developed and submitted proposals for 12 BDA and riparian planting projects in the Chumstick watershed. There are also plans for BDA projects in the Entiat watershed and Squilchuck Creek. Work has begun this summer and will continue through June 30, 2023. Coming work includes utilizing the drone more for project imagery, Fall plantings, working with the WCC crew and the new technician starting soon, and involving Discovery High School in project implementation. Alex invited board members out to the project sites if they want to help out.

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

Grant Applications: Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water 2024 to continue riparian planting, beaver dam analogs; project maintenance, technical assistance, and education/outreach;

Grant Contracts – Executive Director’s signature: Washington Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) WA Fire Adapted Communities training participation – a grant for funding to attend the Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC) workshop in Anacortes;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share Agreements: Germain Riparian Forest Buffer project;

Cost-Share/Contract Payments: Malmassari Irrigation efficiencies hedgerow cost share payment.

M/S/C Pete moved and Amy seconded to approve the application, contracts and cost share agreements and payments as described above. (Unanimous)

Other Business:

Newsletter Discussion - Staff are still looking into different options for newsletters. The Wenatchee World is still the best price, but research will continue with information to be brought to the next meeting. Cascadia CD staff will include some survey questions for people who receive the newsletter and will start tracking how people learned about CCD services when they call or email.

Executive Director’s Report:

NCW Area Meeting – The meeting will be hosted by South Douglas Conservation District on October 19 in Waterville. The meeting lasts the for the day, Board Members vote on proposed resolutions to present at the State meeting in November. Ryan will be attending and would like to have at least one Board member attend.

WACD Annual Meeting – The statewide meeting will be at the Wenatchee Convention Center in November. Ryan plans to attend two of the three days. He asked if board members would like to attend so he could make reservations for those that would like to go. It is a good opportunity to meet Board Members from other districts and give input to the proposed resolutions. It is a great time to go since it is close to home.

Salmon Recovery Funding Advance

The District is expected to carry the costs of the implemented projects according to the requirements of the Salmon Recovery funding, receiving reimbursement when the project is completed. However, there is a provision that allows the District to request an advance of up to 50% of the costs provided the Board approves the request.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded to submit an advance request to the Conservation Commission for the Salmon Recovery Funding program for up to 50% of the capital costs. (Unanimous)

Natural Resources Investments (NRI) Funding Advance

Four to five of the NRI cost share projects are expected to be completed and paid out this fall. Ryan would like to request an advance for up to 50% of the project costs. Board approval is needed.

M/S/C Pete moved and Amy seconded to submit an advance request to the Conservation Commission for the Natural Resources Investments program for up to 50% of the capital costs. (Unanimous)

Archaeologist – Ryan said that a person has been found who could potentially fill Mark Amara’s position. Both Kim and Mark met her at the Dry Falls State Park Flood Fest and believe she would be a good fit with the District. Ryan would like to offer her an on-call position with the same terms as Kim and Mark at Step 1 on the archaeologist pay scale, pending Board approval.

M/S/C Kurt moved and Pete seconded a motion to approve hiring an on-call archaeologist. (Unanimous)

Prescribed Burn Association Community Outreach Contractor – There is funding available through the AIM grant to hire a person to take on the role of community organizer. Ryan talked about hiring someone for a contracted position until the end of the grant in August of 2023. He asked for permission to advertise the temporary contract position.

M/SC Kurt moved and Amy seconded to hire a community outreach contractor for the prescribed burn association project. Pete abstained. (Motion passed)

Chipping Update – Patrick and Joe worked through some of the details to decide whether chipping could be conducted this fall. It was decided that it is best to cancel the fall chipping event and focus on finding long term funding. The spring chipping event will be continued using rates and charges funding if necessary.

Office Space – Ryan will be meeting with the building managers to discuss their plans for changes in the building. He and the Board briefly talked about the office space and storage changes, as well as their concerns.

FYI on CPI – Ryan and the Board discussed the recent report on the Consumer Price Index and potential Cost of Living increase for 2023. The current projection is at 8.7%. Ryan is working on the budget for next year. He will share the different scenarios he’s working on with the Board and see where things stand at the November meeting.

Set the October 2022 Meeting Date and Agenda: The next Regular meeting is October 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Board Member comments & Open Discussion: No discussion.

The Regular District Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Summary of Official Actions:

Approved the Consent Agenda;

Approved \$5,000 in support of the Water Quality work on Lake Chelan for 2022;

Approved the following:

Grant Application for:

Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water 2024 application;

Grant Contracts for:

Executive Director's signature on the Washington Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) WA Fire Adapted Communities training participation for funding to attend the Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC) workshop in Anacortes;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share Agreements with:

Germain Riparian Forest Buffer project;

Landowner Agreements/Cost-Share Payments:

Malmassari Irrigation efficiencies hedgerow cost share payment;

Approved to submit an advance request to the Conservation Commission for the Salmon Recovery Funding program for up to 50% of the capital costs;

Approved to submit an advance request to the Conservation Commission for the Natural Resources Investments program for up to 50% of the capital costs;

Approved hiring an on-call archaeologist;

Approved to hire a community outreach contractor for the prescribed burn association project. Pete abstained.

CHAIR_____

OFFICE ASSISTANT_____