



Okanogon Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogon, WA 98840

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: October 4, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogon Conservation District office, Okanogon, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, Chair	Amy Martin, Natural Resource Technician
Jerry Asmussen, Vice Chair	Allisa Carlson, Wildlife Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, Auditor	Becky Snijder, Natural Resource Technician
Lorah Super, Supervisor	Kyle McGovern, Natural Resource Technician
Steve Colvin, Supervisor	Kim Kogler, Natural Resource Technician
Gerri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Juan Ledezma, Financial Assistant
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Will Keller, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Jerry DeBacker, OLT
Bob Clark, Sr. Conservation Planner	Alexa Whipple, Thompson's Meat/ OK. Co. Ag.
Terri Williams, Conservation Planner	Mike Baden, WSCC
Mindy Widell, Natural Resource Technician	Dale Swedberg, WDFW
Zach Day, Natural Resource Technician	

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda: Kim Simpson asked to add a presentation by Alexa Whipple regarding a USDA Meat Processing Facility after the Supervisor reports, and the following to "New Business": Benson Creek Riparian Project, National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Annual Dues and Hosting the movie "The Era of Mega Fires". Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Lorah Super moved to approve the September 2016 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #761, which covers the checking account activity from September 7, 2016 to October 4, 2016, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 9-20-2016 totaling \$18,058.83, on 10-4-16 totaling \$18,555.11, voucher (check) numbers; 10671 - 10705 totaling \$75,623.86, direct withdrawals on 9-7-16 totaling \$1,740.00, on 9-8-16 totaling \$6,643.62, on 9-15-16 totaling \$8,471.66, on 9-16-16 totaling \$81.15, on 9-21-16 totaling \$1,815.00, on 9-22-16 totaling \$6,213.18, on 9-22-16 totaling \$488.85, on 9-22-16 totaling \$81.00, on 9-29-16 totaling \$2.99, on 9-29-16 totaling \$4.66, on 9-29-16 totaling \$564.82, on 9-29-16 totaling \$6.80, on 9-29-16 totaling \$17.63, on 9-29-16 totaling \$389.31, on 9-29-16 totaling \$258.46, on 9-29-16

totaling \$30.24, on 9-29-16 totaling \$243.59, on 9-29-16 totaling \$150.82 and on 9-29-16 totaling \$8.99. The deposits totaled \$176,357.79 and expenditures totaled \$139,450.57. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #761 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Jerry Asmussen – Jerry reported that there has been some nice rain in the mountains and he is preparing for auction season in a week.

Lorah Super – Lorah announced that North 40 in Omak is having a sock sale. She reported that she attended the first of three advisory meetings with the Forest Service. She said topics included protection of land and how the Forest Service works and responds and added that it was a good chance to network. Lorah informed that the dike is almost finished and she is looking forward to signing off on it. She reported that she enjoyed attending the Range Riding training and got chance to see how well it is working in Montana.

Albert Roberts – Albert reported that he finished haying and is now cutting logs and that most of his fence is rebuilt. He announced that there will be a Forum Session in Oroville next Thursday.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that his grapes are doing very well. He reported a 400-pound black bear that was eating his apples decided to leave, along with a cougar that was sharing the area for a while. He noted that Chesaw, had its first frost of the season at 22 degrees.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported that he and Gerri Oberg took a tour to see the fall colors, but found they were about a week to early, so they plan to try again later.

Associate Supervisor Reports:

There were no Associate Supervisor reports.

Alexa Whipple – USDA Meat Processing Facility:

Alexa Whipple is an agriculturist farmer and biologist. During her presentation she gave background information on Thompson's Custom Meats in Twisp, WA, noting that they are struggling to keep the facility open year-round. At this time cattle producers travel long distances to take their cattle to USDA meat processing facilities in Moses Lake and Chewelah. Alexa is proposing to do a feasibility study to determine how successful a USDA processing facility would be in Twisp. She plans to apply for funds through a World Business Development grant and is seeking sponsorship from the district for this project. The application is due January 31, 2017.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson gave an update on the current status of the Rates and Charges and informed that he will meet with the County Commissioners on October 10th at 4:00 PM, to go over what the District is asking for. Craig reported that there will be a Coordinated Resource Management

(CRM) Task Force meeting this Wednesday at the Sun Mountain Lodge and a CRM tour the following day, where he will present. He advised that the next board meeting will be longer, since he will be performing evaluations for many of the staff this month.

Craig reported that he just returned from the Washington State University CAHNRS Career and Internship recruitment where around 150 students came by to visit in a step to find a new intern to start working for the District in May or June of next year. He added that he has also posted a position opening at CAHNRS.

Terri Williams reported that she spoke with Carlene Anders, with the Long-Term Recovery Group regarding partnering with them on projects. She said that the Benson Creek Irrigation project is not the typical type of project that they deal with. Terri said she has begun to refer landowners to the Long-Term Recovery Group, but is not sure what the outcome will be. She added that Kim Lancaster is beginning to do the culture resources on projects, but that it is taking a lot longer to perform than in the past.

Becky Snijder informed that 26 fire recovery projects have been approved, totaling \$702,574 and includes 26 miles of fence repair and five irrigation repair projects. Sixteen of these projects have signed contracts and are ready to start their projects once cultural resources are approved.

Amy Martin reported that she is working with Craig Nelson and Sarah Troutman on plans for a Local Work Group information session to help educate and familiarize landowners with the Local Work Group process.

Kim Simpson informed that the State Auditor will arrive at the District office on October 12, 2016 to begin an audit, which will go on for about two and half weeks.

Contracts & Conservation Plans:

Fire Recovery Woody Residue Treatment Contracts – Mindy Widell reported there are about five hazard tree removal/chipping projects ready to begin, but the paperwork and estimates still need to be finalized. She added that the ideal plan would be to wait until after the ground freezes. Albert Roberts moved to give Craig Nelson authority to sign the Fire Recovery Woody Residue contract once the paperwork and estimates are finalized. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

DNR Firewise Contract – This contract is for \$30,000 and would focus on Firewise adapted communities, assessments and workshops. It would also allow for some cost share and perhaps two to three days of chipping. Lorah Super moved to give authorization for a board member or Craig Nelson to sign the contract once it is ready. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agency Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Will Keller – Will presented the NRCS report on behalf of Sarah Troutman-Zahn. Will gave a recap of the EQIP funds, adding that

there will be three different application cut off periods. The first application deadline is November 18th and he recommended sending the application in early if interested. Will announced that the Local Work Group meeting is set for December 14, 2016.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), Mike Baden – Mike reported that there is a lot of fire recovery work going on right now. They are working on problem solving and have opened funding to conservation districts for some of the recent fires. Recently conservation district staff were asked to sit in on a Fire Recovery Committee phone call and Mike commended Mindy Widell for a great job. Mike informed that there have been some changes in the election procedure, mainly a reduction in forms and stressed that it is important to make sure all forms and processes are completed in a timely manner. Mike reported that the WSCC is still researching on a whether to have a state wide common day or week for the election and added that feelings on this seemed to be split between the districts, so they will continue researching the options. Mike gave an update on the budget that the WSCC is working on and reported that there has been an increase, part of which is for fire recovery. He also, informed that the new FLSA Labor Law changes go into effect on December 1st and commented that this would be a good time to look at the exempt classifications to make sure each employee is classified in the correct category. Mike announced that the Good Governance is being revised and the draft will be coming out soon. He asked that each one look at the draft and comment on it.

Okanogan Land Trust (OLT), Jerry DeBacker – Jerry announced that the building they were renting was sold and so OLT has moved to an office across the street from Rawsons. He reported that they handled a conservation easement for 1,600 acres for the Dereck Olma Ranch and have a couple of other conservation easements in the works.

Public Report – There were no public comments.

Old Business

WACD Resolutions – Lorah Super presented a resolution to engage the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and use willing districts as a tool to assisting ranchers and landowners with implementing practices to reduce wildlife and livestock conflicts through voluntary, incentive-based practices. Albert Roberts moved to approve the WACD Resolution to Utilize Washington conservation district resources to assist with livestock and wildlife conflicts. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

WACD Annual Meeting Attendance – The Washington Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting will be held November 28 – 30, 2016 at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, WA. Lorah Super moved to approve attendance of Albert Roberts, Steve Colvin, Lorah Super, Randy Kelley, and up to two staff. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Upper Columbia River System CWMA MOU Renewal – This Memorandum of Understanding is up for renewal; after discussion, Albert Roberts moved to reinstate the Upper Columbia River System CWMA MOU. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cost-Share and Labor Rate Resolution #2016-04 – This resolution will allow for up to 100% and other amounts of cost share when needed for fire recovery. Lorah Super moved to approve Resolution #2016-04 Cost-Share and Labor Rate Resolution #2016-04. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Benson Creek Riparian Restoration Project – Terri Williams explained the project and the need for a hydrologic assessment. She reported that even if the dams are repaired the storage capacity is diminished. She proposed to apply for a Department of Ecology grant for a Riparian Restoration Project a portion of the grant funds going towards part of the hydrologic assessment. The project would include components of riparian restoration, outreach and cost share projects, with long term goals in water quality and water quantity. This would be a three year, \$250,000 grant that is due October 21,2016. Lorah Super moved to support staff in applying for the Benson Creek Riparian Restoration Project, Department of Ecology grant. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Dues – The District received a request for payment of the NACD annual dues. After discussion, Steve Colvin moved to approve to pay \$500.00 to the NACD for annual dues. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Host “The Era of Mega Fires” Movie – The district was asked if it would be willing to host this movie at the PAC in Omak. This would also involve renting out the middle school gym for booths for sponsors to have booths. It was suggested to incorporate a panel discussion and have two presentations, one for adults and one for students. Steve Colvin moved to approve moving forward on hosting “The Era of Mega Fires” movie at the PAC and that Kirsten Cook would oversee the event. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Summary of Motions

Jerry Asmussen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve the September 2016 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #761 as presented. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to give Craig Nelson authority to sign the Fire Recovery Woody Residue contract once the paperwork and estimates are finalized. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to give authorization for a board member or Craig Nelson to sign the contract once it is ready. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve the WACD Resolution to Utilize Washington conservation district resources to assist with livestock and wildlife conflicts. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to approve attendance of Albert Roberts, Steve Colvin, Lorah Super, Randy Kelley, and up to two staff. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to reinstate the Upper Columbia River System CWMA MOU. Jerry Asmussen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super moved to support staff in applying for the Benson Creek Riparian Restoration Project, Department of Ecology grant. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve to pay \$500.00 to the NACD for annual dues. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve moving forward on hosting “The Era of Mega Fires” movie at the PAC and that Kirsten Cook would oversee the event. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg
Chair

Date

Kim Simpson
District Treasurer

Date