



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

PHONE: (509) 422-0855 EXT. 5 • WEB: WWW.OKANOGANCD.ORG

TO: The Record
SUBJECT: April 2, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting
LOCATION: Okanogan Conservation District office, Okanogan, WA
FROM: Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

PRESENT:

Ivan Oberg, District Chair	Terri Williams, Conservation Planner
Albert Roberts, District Auditor	Leslie Michel, Conservation Planner
Lorah Super, Supervisor	Nancy Nash-Mendez, Spec. Proj. Coord.
Steve Colvin, Supervisor	Zach Day, Natural Resource Technician
Geri Oberg, Associate Supervisor	Mindy Widell, Natural Resource Technician
Craig Nelson, District Manager	Sarah Troutman-Zahn, NRCS
Kim Simpson, District Treasurer	Dale Swedberg, WDFW
Bob Clark, Technical Program Coord.	EP, Public
Kirsten Cook, Conservation Educator	

Meeting Call to Order: Ivan Oberg called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Ivan asked each person to introduce themselves.

Agenda: Staff asked to add Fire Adapted Communities to New Business. Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Lorah Super asked to have her report amended. Lorah Super moved to approve the minutes as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report #743, which covers the checking account activity from March 6, 2015 to April 2, 2015, inclusive was presented for the Board's approval. The following vouchers/checks are approved for payment: Payroll direct withdrawals on 3-18-15 totaling \$9,951.05, payroll direct withdrawals on 4-1-15 totaling \$11,882.18, voucher (check) numbers; 10163 - 10184 totaling \$158,281.87, direct withdrawals on 3-9-15 totaling \$515.04, on 3-9-15 totaling \$1,230.54, on 3-9-15 totaling \$882.27, on 3-9-15 totaling \$151.72, on 3-10-15 totaling

\$3,432.02, on 3-12-15 totaling \$200.00, on 3-13-15 totaling \$3,916.64, on 3-19-15 totaling \$825.00, on 3-19-15 totaling \$164.56, on 3-24-15 totaling \$3,606.42, on 3-31-15 totaling \$7.29, transfers from savings to checking of \$70,000.00 and transfers to savings of \$1,865.00. The deposits totaled \$103,325.93, and expenditures totaled \$196,991.60. Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer's Report #743 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Reports:

Lorah Super – Lorah reported on her first attendance of the Washington Association of Conservation District (WACD) Legislative Days and the WACD Officers and Directors meeting. She reported that unfortunately our timing was off because the budgets had not been released yet. She also informed everyone that Jim Jesernig recommended that all Conservation Districts with assessments should change to rates and charges as soon as possible. Lorah stressed that it is important to get the word out about who we are and what we do for the county.

Lorah also reported that she volunteered with the Methow Conservancy to help distribute plants for us. She said she allowed her property to be the staging area for the recent aerial seeding in French Creek that the District funded with financial support of the Washington State Conservation Commission and Okanogan County Farm Bureau.

Albert Roberts – Albert thanked Leslie Michel for bringing the Symphony of the Soil movie to our area. He said he is busy as usual with spring activities.

Steve Colvin – Steve reported that his irrigation water was turned on two weeks earlier than normal. He agreed with Lorah's report that the District needs to work on increasing our exposure to the public. He reported that his wife took photos and wrote an article, which helped open some doors about the value of what the District is doing.

Ivan Oberg – Ivan reported on his recent trip. He stopped at two conservation district offices in Oregon and learned about their programs. Later in his trip he stopped at a conservation district office in Oklahoma. He reported on several other stops he made throughout his trip

Associate Supervisor Reports:

No associate reports given.

District Manager and Staff Reports:

Craig Nelson shared a letter written by Craig Boesel conveying his appreciation and gratitude for the Norm McClure Lifetime Conservation Achievement award that was presented to him at the District's 75th Celebration. Craig reported that both the State House and Senate budgets do not include funds for the Carlton Complex Fire assistance. He informed that he plans to go to Olympia and meet with some Legislature regarding the needed funds on April 15, 2015.

Craig gave an update on the District's new employees. Zach Day and Mindy Widell began work in March for Carlton Complex Fire assistance. Allisa Carlson and Amy Martin will begin work in May as conservation planners.

Bob Clark gave an update on the new phone system.

Kirsten Cook reported that next week we have approximately 10,000 plants to pack. She reported that we have around 6,000 plants that were donated for Carlton Complex victims. Distribution will be held in the fenced area next to Rawson's in downtown Okanogan this year. She informed that volunteers from the Arbor Day foundation will assist with distribution on Saturday.

Kirsten also reported that the District received \$3,600 from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington – Methow Fund for Firewise activities. She also reported that she has a meeting this month with other organizations in and around the Methow about Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities.

Nancy Nash-Mendez reported on her activities supporting Terri and other staff with Carlton Complex work. She also assisted Leslie with the Symphony of the Soil movie, recently shown in Omak and Twisp. Nancy was happy to announce that she will be out of the office some this month to run in the Boston Marathon on April 20, 2015.

Terri Williams reported that she and her team were able to secure landowner agreements and spread about 36,000 pounds of seed, on approximately 1,700 acres in the French and Fraser Creek watersheds. She praised Zach Day, Mindy Widell, and Nancy Nash-Mendez for their help with the Carlton Complex work.

Terri added that the evaluation and preliminary design for the upper Okanogan River bank stability and habitat complexity project is complete. The Colville Tribe would really like to have the project implemented this summer/fall and want the District to be the contract manager.

Leslie reported that we had about 100 people in total, show up to the two showings of "The Symphony of the Soil". She complemented Nancy Nash-Mendez and all the assistance she provided. The audiences were attentive and asked very good questions after the showings. Leslie also reported on the early progress of her Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) for cover crop and soil health project.

Kim Simpson reported that she completed the 2014 Annual Financial Report and has successfully submitted it to the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Contracts & Conservation Plans – There were no contracts to approve.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Sarah Troutman-Zahn reported that their budget has been approved. Unfortunately, funding is far below historic standards. They received \$4 million in EQIP applications and will be lucky to fund \$1 million statewide. The local region will get about \$300,000, which will fund maybe four or five projects. The NRCS special fire signup will fund about \$400,000 for deferred grazing and aerial seeding.

Sarah reported there was a record low sign-up for Sage Grouse Initiative with five applications and that NRCS will fund all of them. They will fund six applications in our team, for high tunnels with one in Chelan County and five in Okanogan County.

NRCS will accept applications for Environmental Quality Incentives Program for 2016 until this coming July. One change will require potential applicants to be in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) system before an application can even be submitted. This may be an issue as FSA is far understaffed.

There will be a special meeting for the North Central Washington Local Work Group on April 20, 2015 in Pateros. It will be an informational meeting about special initiatives available through NRCS. She doesn't expect the group to make any decisions at this meeting. Priorities for Fiscal Year 2016 will be 40% funding to dryland, 35% funding to forestry, and 25% to irrigation efficiencies upgrades.

Agency Reports:

Dale Swedberg reported they have a new Assistant Wildlife Area Manager on the Methow Wildlife Area. Her name is Anna Sample and she comes to the area from Mt. St. Helens. He has been directing staff to get out and work on weeds popping up in the Carlton Complex Fire area on Department lands.

Public Report:

There was no public present.

Old Business

April/May Monthly Plan – The Board directed staff to submit a nomination for a local teacher for the Washington Association of Conservation District's Educator of the Year award. Kirsten talked about the National Wildfire Preparedness Day and District activities on that day.

New Business

Annual Plan – The plan was tabled until after draft copies are emailed out for review.

WA Conservation Reserve Management (CRM) Executive Meeting & Tour – The Washington CRM Taskforce has asked if the District would be supportive of hosting their annual meeting and tour in September. They would be here September 29th and 30th. They know CRM was an extensive tool used by local ranchers prior to the Carlton Complex Fire and they are interested in seeing how it may be used to help recover from the fire. The Board directed staff to invite the CRM Taskforce to hold their annual meeting and tour in Okanogan County.

Resolution 2015-01 – Cost Share & Labor Rates for WSCC Projects – After discussion, Steve Colvin moved to approve Resolution 2015-0, cost share and labor rates for Washington State Conservation Commission projects. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Fire Adapted Communities – Kirsten reported that we were recently contacted by Annie Schmidt of the Chumstick Wildfire Coalition and the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network about being a grant recipient and program partner to bring this material to the Methow Valley and the rest of Okanogan County. The board was very supportive of this program and directed staff to do what is necessary to sign-up for this program.

Ivan Oberg **adjourned** the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Summary of Motions

Albert Roberts moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lorah Super seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Lorah Super asked to have her report amended. Lorah Super moved to approve the minutes as amended. Albert Roberts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Albert Roberts moved to approve Treasurer’s Report #743 as presented. Steve Colvin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Colvin moved to approve Resolution 2015-0, cost share and labor rates for Washington State Conservation Commission projects. Lorah Super seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ivan Oberg, Chair

Date

Kim Simpson, District Treasurer

Date